

# Caring for your child after General Anaesthesia (GA)

## Going home

Your child must rest for 12 hours once back at home. Soft foods and warm fluids are best to start with.

Don't be concerned if your child vomits once or twice after coming home, but if this continues, contact your family doctor. It is common to experience some mild discomfort following treatment, pain relief medication may be required.

If your child has had teeth extracted:

- > Make sure they do not rinse their mouth for 24 hours. This helps healing.
- > A sponge may be placed in the space where the tooth has been removed. This will help control bleeding and usually dissolves within 24 hours.
- > After 24 hours, rinse with half a teaspoon of warm salty water. Continue this after meals and before bed for up to a week.
- > If bleeding continues, place folded gauze over the area and ask your child to bite firmly for 10-30 minutes.

If you have any concerns, please call your school dental clinic or healthdirect Australia on 1800 022 222.

## Follow up appointments

After the GA, your School Dental Clinic will contact you for an appointment. It is important you attend this appointment to discuss the future dental needs of your child.

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### For more information

SA Dental Service  
GPO Box 864  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Telephone: 1300 008 222  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/sadental](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/sadental)

Interpreters: If you need an interpreter, call the clinic before your appointment, so that staff can arrange for one to be present when you attend.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact the National Relay Service. For more information call 1800 555 660 or visit [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)