

**NHS**

Alder Hey Children's  
NHS Foundation Trust

Oncology Department

A friend called

# WILBUR

Information For Children



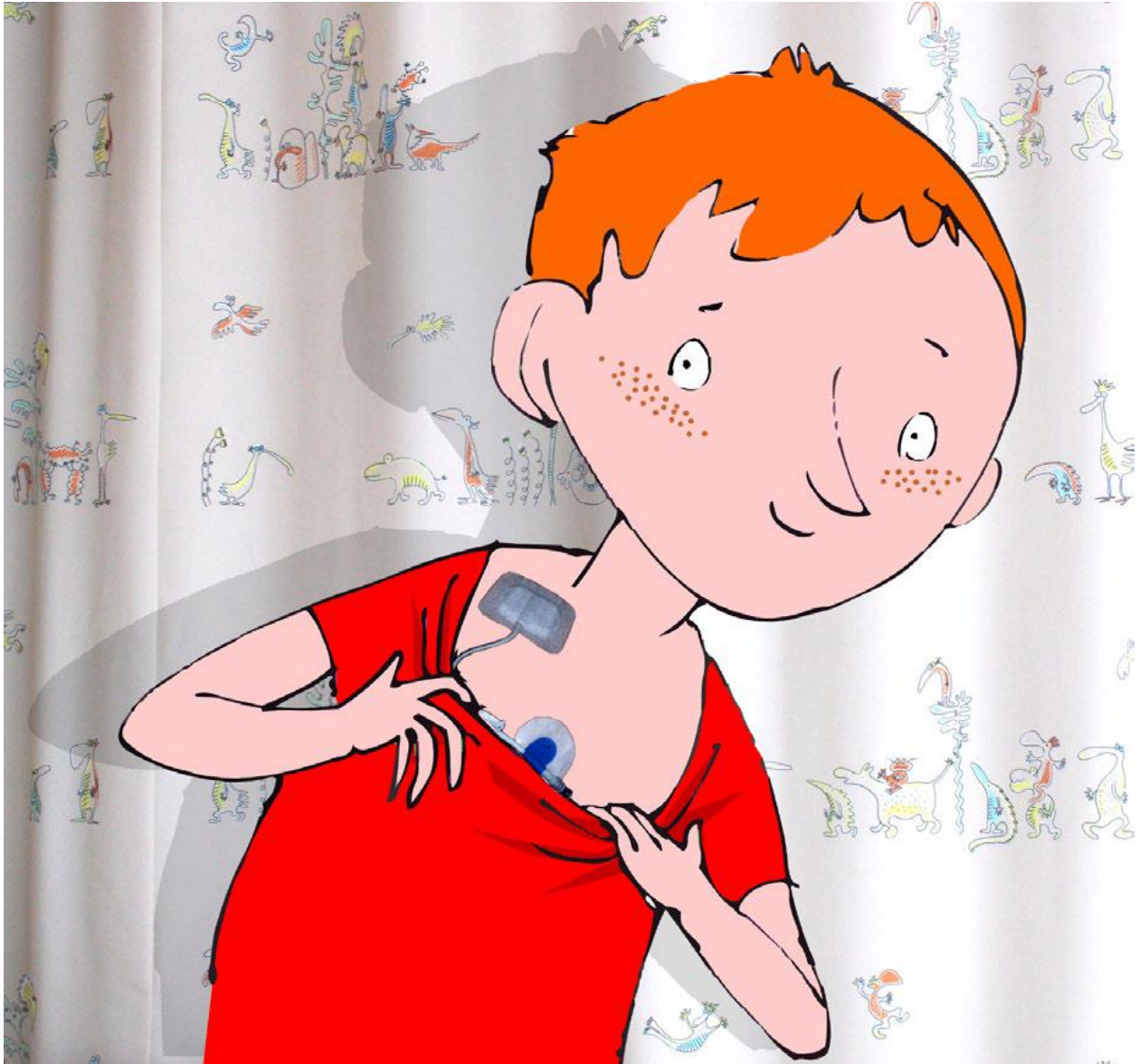


Your doctor has told you that you need to have some medicines to help make you better.

Some of these may be tablets or liquid, which you can take by mouth.

Some special medicines cannot be taken by mouth.

We have a friend to help you take these!



His real name is Central Line (also called Hickman line and Broviac) but we call him **Wilbur**.

This is the story of Wilbur.  
He wants to be your special friend.

Wilbur is a special white tube that is put into a vein.

Some of your medicines and fluids can go through him, instead of you having to have lots of needles.

You may still have to have a few needles, but it will not be as many.



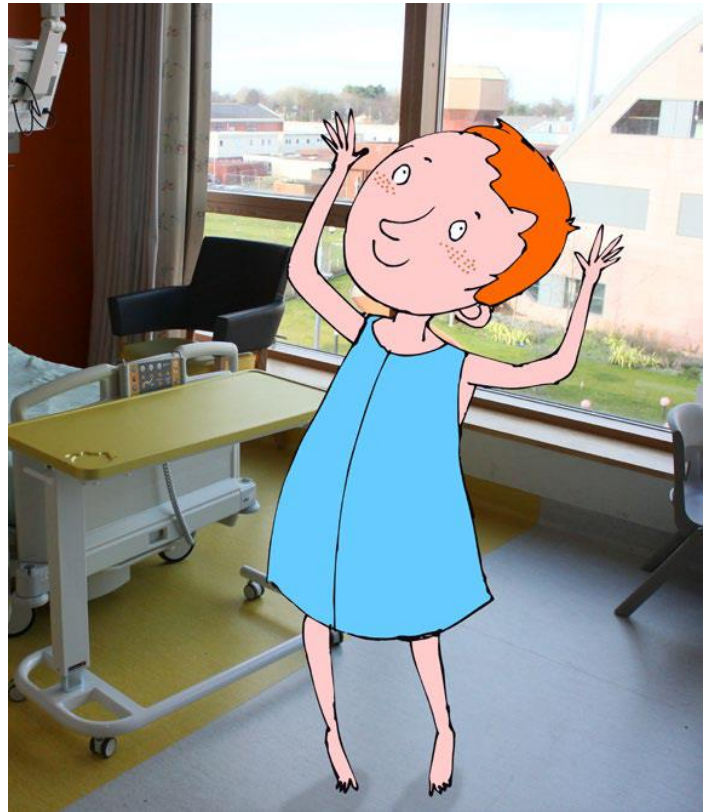


Wilbur has to be put into a big vein. The doctor has to do it while you have a **'special sleep'**.

We call this an **'operation'**.

This means that you will not know anything about it until you wake up.

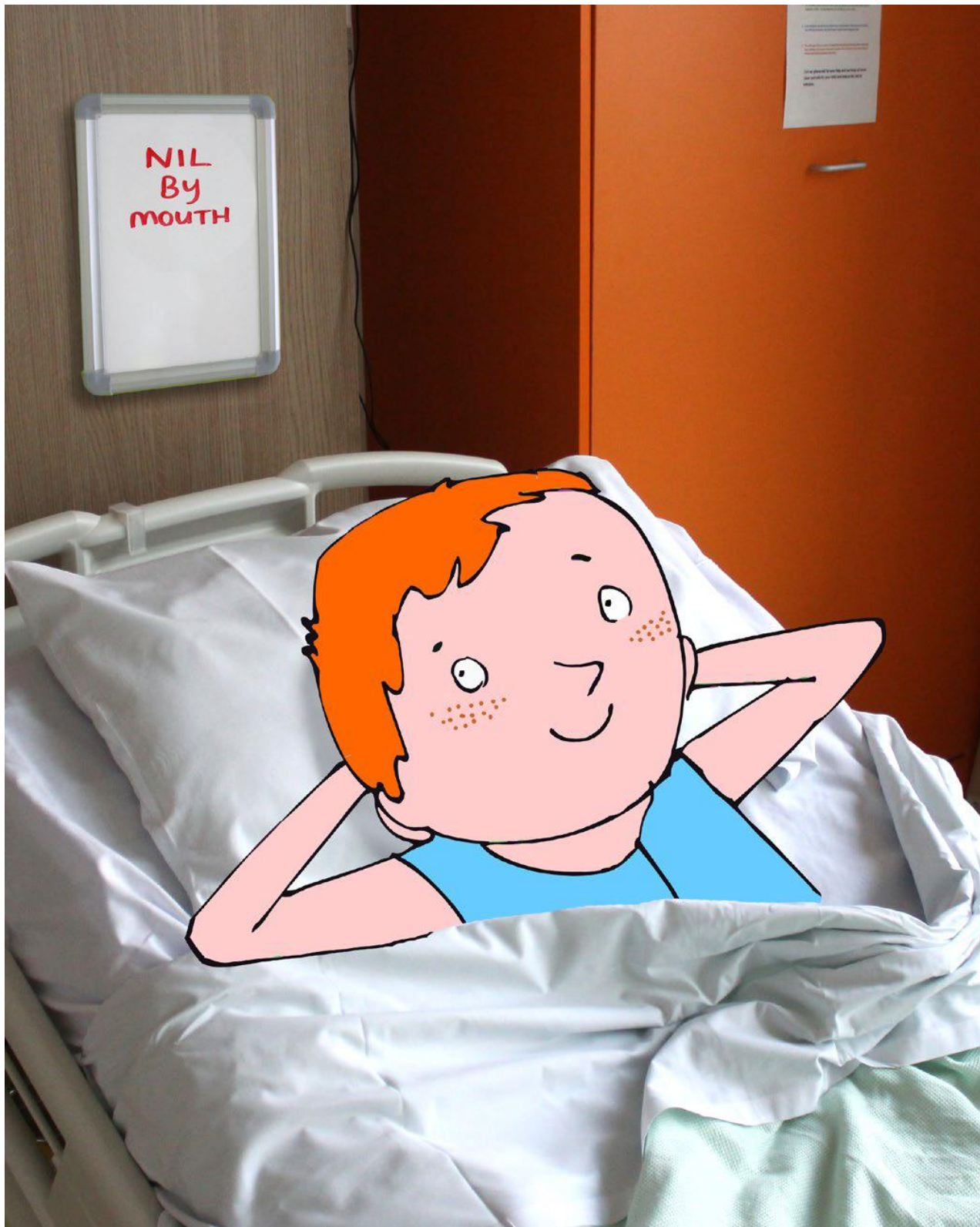
Before your operation, your nurse will give you a funny gown to put on.



It is very important that you do not eat or drink anything from when your nurse tells you until Wilbur has been put in!

There will be a sign above your bed saying  
**'NIL BY MOUTH'**.

Everybody will know that you are not allowed to eat or drink.





A nurse will put 'Magic cream' on the back of your hands to prepare you for theatre.



After a while a **Porter** will come and show you the way to theatre.

Your mum, dad or carer and a nurse will go with you.

You will ride on a trolley, go in a lift, along a corridor and into a little room with lots of machines and funny things in it.

This room is called the **anaesthetic** (an-as-th-e-tic) room.

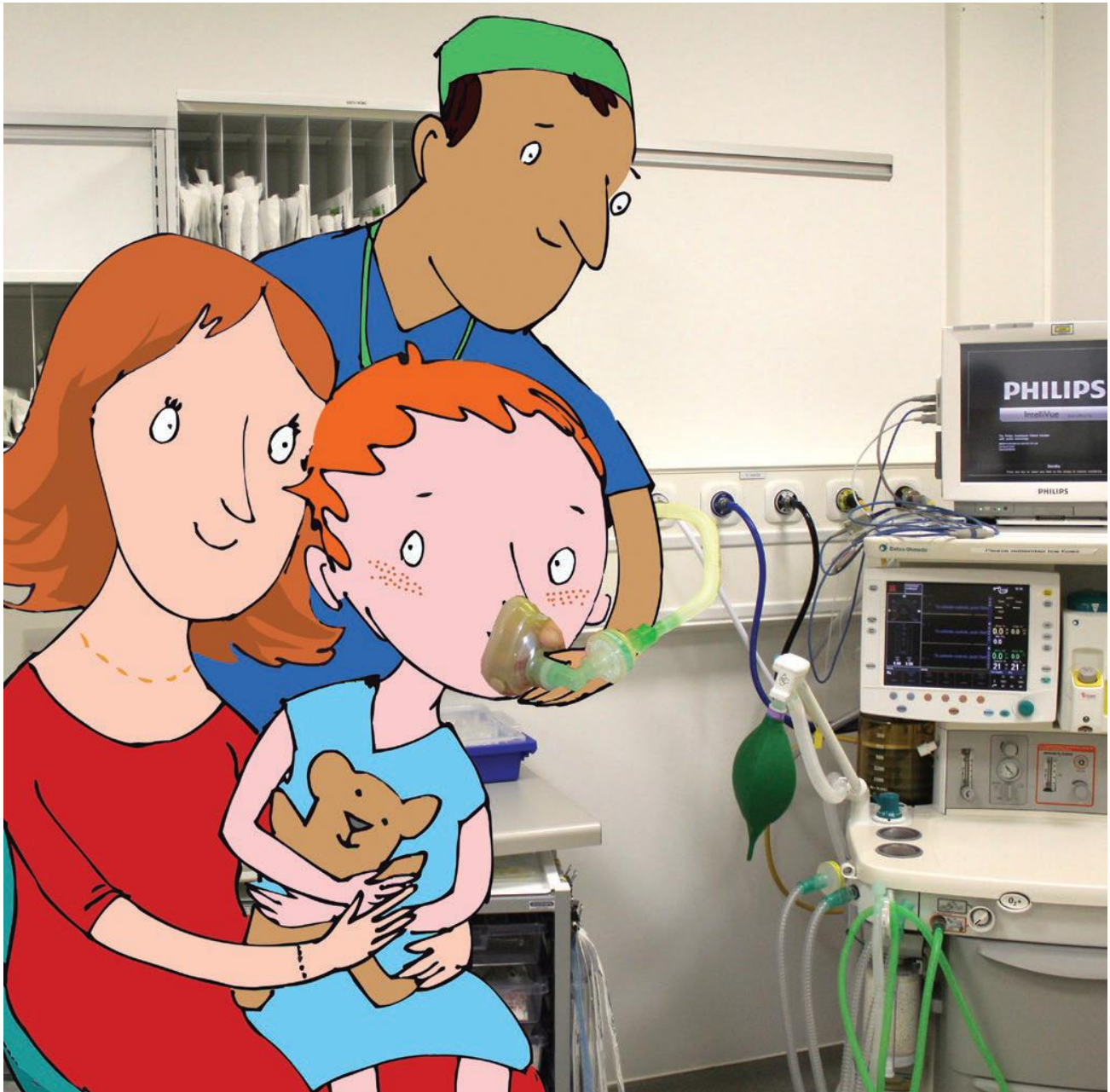




Another person in 'pyjamas' will come to see you.

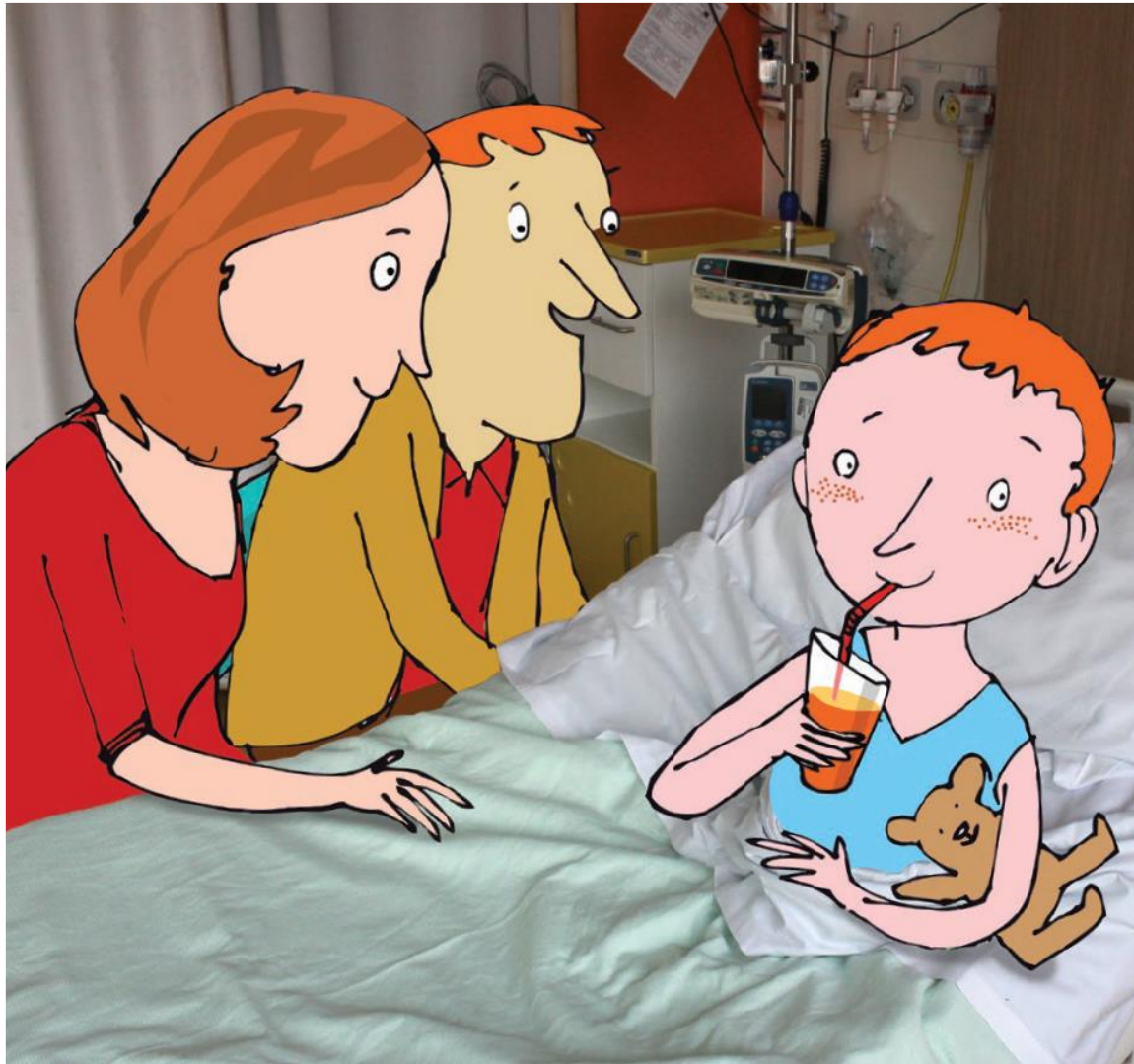
They will give you some 'magic wind' or make a little scratch on the back of your hand where the magic cream has been. This will make you feel relaxed and sleepy.

Then it's time for your special sleep.



When you wake up your mum, dad or carer will be with you.

In a little while the nurses will tell you that you can have a drink.



Now you will be able to see Wilbur coming out of your chest, he will have a plaster over him.

The rest of him is in your vein.

There will also be a little bit of tape on the side of your neck, this is where the doctor helped Wilbur into the vein.

This tape can come off after a few days.

Every week Wilbur will have a clean and a new plaster.







Sometimes you will also need to have what we call a **'drip'** or Wilbur's **'long drink'**.

This will not stop you doing things.

You will still be able to play with your toys and walk around.

Remember to take your drip with you. It has special wheels on it, so you can move it easily.



Wilbur hides under your clothes when he isn't having a drink. Nobody can see him!

Wilbur needs to have a 'flush' or a 'little drink' every so often to keep him happy.

If you are in hospital, a nurse will do this. If you are at home, your mum, dad, carer or a nurse can do it.

First of all, we wipe Wilbur's head with an antiseptic wipe and give him his special drink with a syringe.

Then, we wipe his head again loop Wilbur up and put him away.



When your treatment has finished, the doctor will say that you do not need Wilbur any more. You will need to have another '**special sleep**' to take Wilbur out.

After your '**special sleep**' there will be a plaster where Wilbur used to be, this will come off after a few days.

Wilbur says, 'thank you for looking after me.'

**WELL DONE!**





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**Acknowledgements:**

With thanks to Sue Hemsworth, staff and patients on the Oncology Unit



This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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