



**CONTRACT** 

University Hospital Southampton **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**CONservative TRreatment of Appendicitis in Children – a randomised controlled Trial (Feasibility)**

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (8-11 yrs)

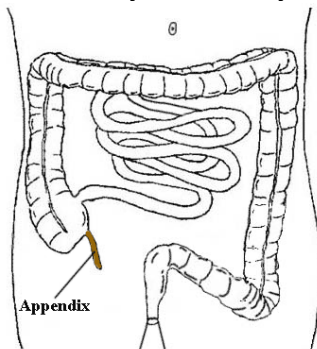
We want to ask for your help in a project that we are doing. This piece of paper explains a bit about the project. If there is anything that you want to know or do not understand please ask us or your parents.

### Why are we doing this project?

You have come into hospital with tummy pain and your doctors think you have an illness called appendicitis. It means that a small part of your insides called the appendix became red and swollen and started hurting. Your appendix is of no use to you at all!



### Inside your tummy



Our project is to try to find out the best way to treat children like you. Usually children with appendicitis get an operation to take the appendix away. We are trying to find out if an operation is really always needed or if children like you could be treated with medicines instead, called antibiotics.

In our project some children will have an operation and some will just have the antibiotics. We hope this will tell us which way is best way of treating children like you.

### What will happen to me if I do take part?

If you agree to help us with our project, we will ask a computer program to decide whether you have an operation to take away your appendix or whether we give you the antibiotics. This process is called randomisation. You will have an equal chance of having either treatment, and using a computer program is the fairest way to decide which treatment you should have.

Whichever treatment you have, you will need to be in hospital for a few days. You will have some medicine through a drip in your hand or arm (a very small and usually painless plastic tube) as well as some medicine to take the pain away. We

will keep a close eye on you to make sure you are getting better and once you are well enough we will let you go home. It will take a little while for you to get completely better, but it won't be long before you should be doing all the things you usually do.

### **What are the risks?**

All treatments that doctors do carry a small number of risks. The risks of having an operation are that there is a small chance of developing a problem after the surgery which we would have to treat. We may also find that you didn't actually have appendicitis in which case you would have had an operation that you didn't need.

The main risk of being treated with antibiotics is that they don't make you better as well or as quickly as we hope. This is very unlikely and because we will be keeping a close eye on you we will know about this. If this is the case we will need to do the operation to make you better. The other risk is that you may get appendicitis again. The risk of this is about 1 in 7 children. If you are unlucky and this happens then we will definitely do the operation to remove your appendix. This is the reason we would like you to come back to visit us after you have been in hospital – so we can make sure you are doing OK.

### **Will taking part help me?**

Taking part in this project will not actually help you physically, but we need to treat your appendicitis anyway. We hope this project will help children like you in the future, by learning how best to treat appendicitis. After we have finished the study we can let you know the results if you would like to know.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No, it is up to you and your parents. If you decide not to take part no one will be upset or disappointed.

### **Who will know that I am taking part in the study?**

We will only tell those people who need to know including your family doctor.

Thank you for reading this sheet. Please ask if you have any questions.

**A copy of this sheet should be given to the child and a copy placed in the child's medical record.**