

PARENT & CARER INFORMATION

Attendance at Hospital for a Child with an Unexplained or Concerning Injury

Children's Safeguarding Team
01695 656183

This leaflet is to explain the process to be followed if your child attends Southport and Ormskirk Hospital with an injury that is unexplained, or if there are possible safeguarding concerns in relation to that injury.

Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust are committed to providing an optimal service and standard of care to every child and young person attending our hospital.

The Children Act (1989) ensures that we understand and act upon our duty to ensure all children are safeguarded and that their welfare is promoted.

This means that we have a responsibility to investigate any injury in a child that may be unexplained or that we have concerns about.

A child is defined in terms of child protection as anyone under the age of 18 years.

Referral to Paediatrics

If there are any concerns regarding the injury and we feel further investigation may be needed, your child will be referred to the Paediatric Team on Children's Ward.

A Paediatric Doctor will take a history in relation to the presenting injury and ask about previous hospital attendances and medical history.

If possible, the doctor will also speak to the child regarding the injury.

The doctor will also ask for details regarding other siblings, carers and close family members.

The doctor will also complete a head to toe medical examination which documents any injuries, bruises or other marks on a body map.

What Happens Next?

If the Paediatric Doctor is satisfied that the injury is accidental and has no further concerns in relation to the presentation, your child will be discharged home.

If the doctor still has some concerns, additional investigations may be required. These will depend upon the injury and the age of your child. These may include:

- Blood tests
- X-rays - sometimes a full set of x-rays of the whole body may be needed. Your doctor may suggest that

your child is sedated for the procedure depending upon their age and needs.

- Eye examination
- CT scan of the head

Your child will be admitted to the Children's Ward while further investigations are carried out.

Referral to Children's Social Care

If the doctor has safeguarding concerns after the medical has been completed, a referral to Children's Social Care will be necessary.

This referral is necessary as Social Care have a duty to investigate any concerns in relation to child safeguarding.

A meeting between Social Care, the hospital and other relevant agencies such as the Police or Health Visitor/School Nurse will be held to discuss the concerns. A plan will be discussed regarding how to progress to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child.

The Social Worker will discuss the proposed plan with you. Social Care may specify that someone else supervises you and your child while investigations are on-going. This will not usually be a member of hospital staff.

You will be asked for consent for any investigations and be asked to co-operate with the plan put forward to safeguard your child while investigations are on-going.

It may be necessary for Social Care to take legal advice if consent or co-operation with the plan is not agreed. This is to ensure that your child's safety and well-being is maintained.

Data Protection

Information regarding your child's attendance and previous hospital attendances will be shared with other relevant agencies with the aim of safeguarding your child.

Sometimes relevant information may be requested from other professionals such as your child's Health Visitor or GP.

You & Your Child have the right to:

- Have your views & feelings heard
- Ask any questions you may have
- Confidentiality when appropriate
- Be kept up-to-date with plans
- Have access to our complaints procedure
- Access to an interpreter if required

Who to contact if you have any concerns or questions

You can speak to the Consultant in charge of your child's care, the Nurse in charge or a member of the Children's Safeguarding Team.

We understand that this procedure may be difficult and upsetting for you and your child. Our aim is to support you through the process and ensure that you are kept informed throughout, while maintaining our duty of care to your child.

For further information:

<http://www.lancashiresafeguarding.org.uk/>

<http://www.seftonlscb.co.uk/lscb>

During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have questions or concerns.

MATRON

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION

- Your own GP

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) – 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) – 0800 328 6297

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need
this leaflet in an alternative format**

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

Ormskirk & District General Hospital
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ
Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN
Tel: (01704) 547471

FOR APPOINTMENTS

Telephone (01695) 656680
Email soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net

Please remember to complete the **attached Friends and Family Test**.

Alternatively, you can complete the *Friends and Family Test* on-line by going to: southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT
Thank you

(Adapted from St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals CP Information Leaflet)

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