

## Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

## Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

## PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

Tel: **020 3299 3601**

Email: **kch-tr.PALS@nhs.net**

You can also contact us by using our online form at **[www.kch.nhs.uk/contact/pals](http://www.kch.nhs.uk/contact/pals)**

**If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 1844.**

# Looking after your child swallowing a magnet or battery: Foreign body ingestion

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Information for parents/carers

[www.kch.nhs.uk](http://www.kch.nhs.uk)

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## Introduction

Your child has been assessed by one of our doctors who believes that it is safe for you to take your child home. This leaflet has been written by the doctors and nurses working in the department to act as a guide and is to remind you of some of the things that you need to know in order to look after your child at home. We hope that this will be helpful to you. Please read it carefully.

If you have any worries or concerns you may call NHS 111 who will be able to give medical advice over the telephone, or alternatively you may contact your General Practitioner (G.P.), or come back to the Emergency Department.

## Foreign body ingestion

Most swallowed objects (ingested foreign bodies) will pass spontaneously. At least 80% of foreign bodies will pass without the doctors and nurses doing anything. However some can cause damage to the tummy (gastrointestinal tract) and/or become stuck. Patients who swallow foreign bodies may not have any worrying symptoms at the time, but sometimes symptoms can develop. Today, your child has been discharged following the ingestion of a magnet or multiple magnets, or a button battery. Even though they have not passed them yet, it is OK to take your child home. This leaflet is designed to tell you specifically about the things to look out for after you take your child home.

## What should I expect?

- In the Children's Emergency Department, your child will have an x-ray of their chest and tummy (abdomen). Sometimes we may do a second x-ray of their tummy from the side (but not always).
- The nurses and doctors will check your child's pulse and breathing, and make sure they are not in any pain.
- You will only be discharged home once we are happy that your child is not at high risk of developing any worrying symptoms.
- If a single magnet or button battery is ingested, it is likely it will pass without the doctors and nurses needing to do anything.
- You will be asked to bring your child back to hospital for a repeat x-ray within the next 6-12 hours.

Please come back to the Children's Emergency Department

on: .....

at: .....

## What can I do?

- Until your child has had their repeat X-ray, remove any other external magnets from nearby, and avoid clothes with metal buttons or belts with a metal buckle.
- We do **not** advise that you examine your child's faeces/poo to find the swallowed object.

## How do I know when to seek medical attention?

Very rarely, the object can become stuck in the stomach or intestines. Please bring your child to the Children's Emergency Department **IMMEDIATELY** if they have:

- Concerns of further magnet or foreign body ingestion
- Ongoing vomiting
- Abdominal (tummy) pain
- Blood in their vomit or poo
- A fever
- You have concerns about a change in your child's eating patterns e.g. refusing food or fluids.

## Key points to remember

- The majority of swallowed objects will pass without anybody doing anything.
- We do **not** advise that you examine your child's faeces/poo to find the swallowed object.
- The follow up X-ray is extremely important so doctors can make sure the magnets or battery are moving normally through your child's bowels. Please speak to your nurse or doctor if you have worries about this.

## How to find us

For information on directions, public transport and parking visit **www.kch.nhs.uk** and look at 'Getting to King's'.