



Information for patients, relatives and carers

A child has swallowed a foreign object - Follow up **IS** required

What are the aims of this information?

This leaflet is intended to advise you of the procedure for managing a child who has swallowed something (a foreign object).

Most swallowed objects pass through the digestive system without any problems once they have reached the stomach. Metal coins are the most common and often harmless type of objects swallowed by children.

Batteries, especially button and disc batteries, magnets and items containing lead have the potential for more serious complications.

It is important to tell the doctor if these types of items have been swallowed as they are termed 'hazardous'.

Your visit to our Emergency Department (A&E)

Today the child will have been assessed with a metal detector alone or in conjunction with an X-ray as determined by local guidelines for foreign object ingestion. We would not use a metal detector for magnets or batteries.

Today your child has been assessed in the Emergency Department and has had an X-ray. We are satisfied the object has safely passed into the stomach or further in the digestive tract and it is likely to be passed through their system and be seen in their stool (poo) within a few days.

Today your child has been discharged home after swallowing a foreign object

The foreign object may not have passed through them yet, but it is OK to take your child home. Your child will need follow up X-rays. These are usually performed between 6 – 12 hours after ingestion. It is not necessary to examine the stool for the item.

The X-rays are extremely important and you **MUST** bring your child back when advised to, this is so the doctors know if the magnet is travelling through your child's bowel normally.

Your Follow-Up appointment for further X-rays

Please bring your child back to the Emergency Department onat for the repeat X-rays.

Please monitor your child and watch them closely. You **must** bring your child back **immediately** to the Emergency Department if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Blood in vomit or poo
- Have a fever
- Refusing to eat or drink
- You think they may have swallowed further foreign objects

Who should I contact if I have a problem or question?

- NHS direct on 111 (www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)
- Try to arrange appointment with your GP
- Attend Emergency Department (A&E)

In an emergency requiring **urgent attention: Go to your nearest emergency department.**

① If you have further concerns about your condition, please contact your GP. If you are not sure what to do, call 111 or get help from 111 online:
<https://111.nhs.uk/> When to use NHS 111 online or call 111 - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.PatientExperienceTeam@nhs.net.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print, Easy Read or audio, please ask the staff who are looking after you.

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