



**James Paget
University Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Unusual or unexplained injuries in children



**Children's and
Young Persons' Unit**
01493 452010

Parent Information

Unusual or unexplained injuries in children

Many children experience bruises, broken bones and other injuries during their childhood when they are playing, taking part in sport or due to an accident. Sometimes broken bones or bruising can be caused by a medical condition that may require further tests.

Injuries can also be caused by other children or adults. This could be by accident but sometimes the injuries may have been caused deliberately.

If the injuries are unusual in appearance, cannot be explained or the explanation is not clear then the opinion of a paediatric doctor may be sought. A paediatrician is a trained children's doctor who will gather information and examine your child. They have a legal requirement to investigate the cause of any injury.

What we will do

You will be asked questions about your child's health and how the injuries may have occurred. Different people may ask the same questions and this may feel uncomfortable at times. The medical team need to make sure they have all the available information to ensure that they make the right decisions in the best interest of your child's health and well-being.

The medical team may need further information about your child by speaking with other specialist doctors, your child's GP, health visitor, school nurse or teacher, social worker or police. Your child will be discussed with a paediatric consultant and the Trust's Safeguarding Children's Team.

Your child may require further tests to help the medical team find out the reason for their injury and to ensure that there are not any other concerns. The paediatrician will discuss these investigations with you.

These tests may include:

- Blood tests
- X-rays (sometimes repeated after two weeks)
- CT Scan
- MRI Scan
- Photographs
- Eye examination
- Skin swabs or urine test.

What we have to do

As part of the information gathering it is likely that children's social care will be contacted. They have a legal duty to make enquiries and to decide whether a child with unusual or unexplained injuries requires action to be taken to safeguard their welfare.

Whilst they are making these enquiries your child may be admitted to hospital or discharged to a 'place of safety'. Social care may put in place certain restrictions until the enquiry is completed:

- They could say who may or may not visit your child in hospital.
- Arrange for visiting to be supervised.
- Require a meeting before a child is discharged from hospital.

Your child may need to stay in hospital until all information has been gathered, tests are completed, and all the results are available. Some of the tests can take several days to be completed and your child may need to return to the hospital for additional investigations following their discharge.

We're here to help

We realise that this is a stressful time for you, your child and your family and nobody wants to cause you more upset than you may already be feeling. All the staff are here to help. Please ask if you need anything explaining further to you. You and your child will be kept informed of any decisions and results

during this admission. Information shared by professionals will remain confidential.

If you have a social worker we would advise you to contact them for updates regarding their involvement and arrangements once your child is discharged.

The welfare of brothers and sisters and any other children that were involved with the child will also be considered and a safety plan made.

We all have a responsibility to make sure children and young people are safe and well cared for. If there are concerns that a child has been harmed or may suffer harm we have a legal duty to act on the concern.

Agencies work together with you as parents or carers to ensure your child is safe and well cared for.

Leaflet adapted from Addenbrookes Hospital Safeguarding Team (2018)

Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

Trust Values

Courtesy and respect

- A welcoming and positive attitude
- Polite, friendly and interested in people
- Value and respect people as individuals
So people feel **welcome**

Attentively kind and helpful

- Look out for dignity, privacy & humanity
- Attentive, responsive & take time to help
- Visible presence of staff to provide care
So people feel **cared for**

Responsive communication

- Listen to people & answer their questions
- Keep people clearly informed
- Involve people
So people feel **in control**

Effective and professional

- Safe, knowledgeable and reassuring
- Effective care / services from joined up teams
- Organised and timely, looking to improve
So people feel **safe**



The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240