

Head Injury Advice Sheet

Advice for parents and carers of children



How is your child?



RED

If your child has any of the following during the next 48 hours:

- Vomits repeatedly i.e. more than twice (at least 10 minutes between each vomit)
- Becomes confused or unaware of their surroundings
- Loses consciousness, becomes drowsy or difficult to wake
- Has a convulsion or fit
- Develops difficulty speaking or understanding what you are saying
- Develops weakness in their arms and legs or starts losing their balance
- Develops problems with their eyesight
- Has clear fluid coming out of their nose or ears
- Does not wake for feeds or cries constantly and cannot be soothed

You need urgent help

Go to the nearest Hospital Emergency (A&E) Department or phone 999



AMBER

If your child has any of the following during the next 48 hours:

- Develops a persistent headache that doesn't go away (despite painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen)
- Develops a worsening headache

You need to contact a doctor or nurse today

Please ring your GP surgery or call NHS 111 - dial 111



GREEN

If your child:

- Is alert and interacts with you
- Vomits, but only up to twice
- Experiences mild headaches, struggles to concentrate, lacks appetite or has problems sleeping

If you are very concerned about these symptoms or they go on for more than 2 months, make an appointment to see your GP.

Self Care

Continue providing your child's care at home. If you are still concerned about your child, call NHS 111 – dial 111

How can I look after my child?

- Ensure that they have plenty of rest initially. A gradual return to normal activities/school is always recommended.
- Increase activities only as symptoms improve and at a manageable pace.
- It is best to avoid computer games, sporting activity and excessive exercise until all symptoms have improved.