

# **A child has swallowed a foreign object – Follow up not required**

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:  
Your own GP, Emergency Department York 01904 726 587 or the  
Scarborough Emergency Department on 01723 387 111

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## **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 or 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 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 after swallowing a foreign object**

The foreign object may not have passed through them yet, but it is **ok** to take your child home.

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](http://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**

## Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact The Emergency Department c/o Policy and Patient Information Team, York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 98 Union Terrace, York, YO31 7ES, telephone 01904 721045 or 725230 or email us at [patient.information2@york.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information2@york.nhs.uk).

## Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. 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 [pals@york.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@york.nhs.uk). An answer phone is available out of hours.

## Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供 , 電或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz

Telephone: 01904 725566

Email: [access@york.nhs.uk](mailto:access@york.nhs.uk)

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