

Where to take a child in a medical emergency

Dear parent / guardian,

Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust is responsible for providing hospital services at both the Heartlands and Solihull Hospital. We want you to know that Solihull Hospital does not treat seriously ill or injured children, who should go instead to Birmingham Heartlands Hospital – or another suitable hospital, such as Birmingham Children’s Hospital – in an emergency as there is a dedicated children’s A&E.

At Solihull Hospital there is no paediatric (children’s specialist) team and children’s services are limited. It is vital that those who are responsible for children, especially those with young children, understand this.

Serious symptoms that require attention from the paediatrics team at Heartlands include:

- Breathing problems
- Loss of consciousness or drowsiness
- Possible meningitis / headache
- Abdominal pain
- Broken bones with any deformity
- Very unwell child with an unexplained high temperature

Children with these symptoms who are brought into Solihull Hospital will require transfer to Heartlands in an ambulance, resulting in a potential delay to treatment. If the condition appears to be serious or life threatening, then call 999, in which case your child will automatically be taken to Heartlands rather than Solihull Hospital. For more minor symptoms your GP, pharmacist or NHS Direct may be able to help.

For minor ailments, examples of conditions that **can** be treated at **Solihull** include:

- Cuts and abrasions, minor burns
- Minor head injury without loss of consciousness
- Sprains and strains
- Broken bones with no deformity

If you are not sure where to take an ill or injured child, you can call the Hospital switchboard on 0121 424 5181 to ask for advice.

We are currently undertaking a review into urgent care services at Solihull Hospital, to ensure we provide the safest care possible for all patients. For more information, please visit www.solihullccg.nhs.uk and click on the ‘Urgent Care Review in Solihull’ tab.

Many thanks in advance for your cooperation with this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Aidan MacNamara
Clinical Director in Accident & Emergency
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust