

Hearing Aid Battery Safety

Patient Information

Children's Audiology Service



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID: RM/JW
Leaflet ref: CM 292
Version: 2
Leaflet title: Hearing Aid Battery Safety
Last review: July 2022
Expiry Date: July 2024



Hearing Aid Battery Safety

It is potentially dangerous for anyone to swallow a battery or poke one into their ears or nostrils.

If you suspect an individual has swallowed a battery, or put a battery in their nose or ear, they should be taken to the nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E) department as soon as possible.

Take the battery packaging with you if you can. This can help the hospital staff identify the type of battery and support any action that may need to be taken.

Try not to let young children see the batteries being changed. It is safer if young children do not know that the battery compartment opens. Your Audiologist can if required fit a child proof battery lock to the hearing aids.

Important: Even if your child's hearing aids have a tamperproof battery lock, you should never leave babies or young children alone with their hearing aids.

Hearing aids should be stored out of reach of children when not in use, remember that they are no longer tamperproof once the battery drawer is open.

When should hearing aids be tamper proof?

All babies and children aged 5 years or under should have tamper proof battery drawers on their hearing aids.

For older children and adults, the need for tamper proofing should be considered for:

- Those living with babies or children under 5 years of age
- Those with additional risk factors or living with those with additional risk factors such as health conditions or disabilities that might put them at risk of swallowing a coin or button battery, or pushing one in to an ear or nostril. This includes, but is not limited to, those with significant learning disability, dementia or other cognitive or sensory impairment.

How should I store and dispose of batteries?

New batteries should be kept in their original packaging, out of sight and out of reach of children. They are best kept in a sealed container in a high cupboard.

When a battery is flat, it is still a risk. The batteries should be put out of children's reach straight away and disposed of as quickly as possible. Batteries should not be put into the household rubbish, but put into special disposal containers.

Our Audiology clinic has recycling boxes to return used batteries and many supermarkets have battery disposal bins.

It is good practice to keep your used batteries in the original packaging so that you can keep them safe and make sure that no old batteries have gone missing.

Dispose of used batteries carefully. Batteries contain chemicals that could be harmful. Used batteries should be recycled. Our Audiology clinics have recycling boxes for used batteries.

Please note: Batteries are also a risk if ingested by animals, please take your animal to the vet as soon as possible if you suspect it has ingested a battery.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

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Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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