

Caring for a child with a burn injury

Emergency Department

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Pain Relief

Burns can be very painful. You can give your child Paracetamol and/or Ibuprofen following the dose guidance on the bottle.

Wound Checks

Your child may require wound reviews and dressing changes. To ensure the comfort of your child and minimise distress, please ensure that a dose of Paracetamol or Ibuprofen is given approximately 45 minutes before their appointment times.

Wound reviews and dressing changes can be uncomfortable. It may be helpful to bring toys to distract your child or a favourite cuddly toy or comforter. Babies and toddlers can often be comforted by a feed, therefore timing feeds to coincide with appointment times may be helpful.

Dressings

Dressings are applied to the burn injury to protect it and help it to heal.

A referral to the Community Children's Nurses will be made. They will contact you to arrange to visit your child to complete a wound assessment and dressing change. If you do not hear from them within 48 hours you can contact them at The Gem Centre on 01902 446270.

If your child has been referred to the Burns Team at Birmingham Children's Hospital, they will have their wound assessed and dressings changed during their appointment. Children referred to the Burns Team will not be referred to the Community Children's Nurses.

Please try to keep your child's dressing clean and dry and leave bandages in place until your next appointment.

You will need to contact the Emergency Department or the Community Children's Nurses if:

- The dressing becomes wet, very dirty or falls off
- Fluid from the wound leaks through the dressing
- The dressing becomes smelly or there is green discharge
- Your child has pain that is not relieved by simple analgesia

- The dressing becomes too tight.

Burn injuries can swell. Elevating burns to hands, arms, feet and legs can help to minimise swelling and the associated risks and discomfort.

Nutrition

Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids and maintain a healthy diet to promote wound healing.

Emotional Well Being

Burn injuries of any size and severity can be distressing for both the child and their parent / carer.

If you notice a change in behaviour or have concerns about the emotional well being of your child, please contact your GP or Health Visitor / School Nurse for support. They will also be able to offer support and guidance to you and your family.

Alternatively there are a number of charities online who can also help.

Infections

An uncommon, but serious infection that can develop following a burn of any size is Toxic Shock Syndrome. If your child develops any of the following symptoms after their injury, please seek advice from 111 or your GP:

- A high temperature
- A rash
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Very sleepy or irritable
- Reduced appetite
- Not passing urine.

If your child is extremely poorly please attend the nearest Emergency Department or call 999.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。