

# Children's Safeguarding Procedure in the Emergency Department

## Introduction

This leaflet outlines the procedures in place to help ensure the safety of children attending the Emergency Departments in Gloucestershire.

## What is safeguarding?

- Protecting children from abuse and treatment which is not appropriate.
- Stopping harm to children's health or development.
- Helping children grow up with safe and effective care.
- Enabling all children and young people to achieve their potential.

Safeguarding is the term used by professionals when making sure a vulnerable person is not at risk of harm. The laws of this country give clear instructions on protecting children, adults, the elderly and those with learning difficulties.

## Safeguarding in Gloucestershire

All healthcare professionals who come into contact with children have a duty under the Children Act 2004 to identify and protect children at risk of, or experiencing harm. These professionals will include doctors, dentists, physiotherapists and nurses. Most children will see at least one of these professionals every year.

Each year lots of children attend the Emergency Departments in Gloucestershire due to accidents or illness. While the children are being treated, hospital staff will carry out routine assessments and follow the Children's Safeguarding (Child Protection) legal requirements.

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Department

**Emergency**

Review due

**February 2028**

**Patient  
Information**

## What does this mean to me?

We recognise that this can be a difficult issue for many families and thank you for your cooperation with our procedures.

To make sure that we protect every child, several staff may:

- ask you very detailed questions about your child's injury or illness.
- ask to see your child alone.
- ask questions about your child's mental health.
- ask questions about your mental health.
- discuss any domestic abuse within the family.
- find out about your child's and your family alcohol and drug use.
- request further investigations for your child.
- talk with doctors in other hospital departments.
- request that you take your child to the Children's Ward.
- contact your GP and Health Visitor.
- ask about any support which is available for your child and family.
- share information with the Children's and Young People's Social Care Department.

Please be reassured that if there are any concerns, we will discuss them with you in an open and sympathetic manner.

## Further information

### Gloucestershire Multi Agency Safeguarding

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership provides detailed information and advice about the safeguarding process for children in the county.

Website: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/)

### NSPCC

Website: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/>

### Glofamilies Directory

Offer help and advice to families

Tel: 0800 542 02 02

Website: [www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk)

## Patient Information

**The Patient Advice & Liaison Service**  
 Gloucestershire Royal Hospital  
 Great Western Road, Gloucester  
 GL2 3NN

Tel: 0800 019 3282 (freephone)

Email:

[ghn-tr.pals.gloshospitals@nhs.net](mailto:ghn-tr.pals.gloshospitals@nhs.net)

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## Making a choice

### Shared Decision Making

If you are asked to make a choice, you may have lots of questions that you want to ask. You may also want to talk over your options with your family or friends. It can help to write a list of the questions you want answered and take it to your appointment.



### Ask 3 Questions

**To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions if you are asked to make a choice about your healthcare.**

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

These resources have been adapted with kind permission from the MAGIC Programme, supported by the Health Foundation

\* Ask 3 Questions is based on Shepherd HL, et al. Three questions that patients can ask to improve the quality of information physicians give about treatment options: A cross-over trial. Patient Education and Counselling, 2011;84: 379-85



<https://aqua.nhs.uk/resources/shared-decision-making-case-studies/>