

Emergency services for children in Gloucestershire

It is always worrying when a child is unwell, and vitally important that they are treated in the right place.

If your child* has a minor injury or illness it may be best for them to attend your local Minor Injury Unit or GP rather than the Emergency Department (A&E). Please call 111 or visit the ASAP site for information on these local services (www.asapglos.nhs.uk).



Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH)

Great Western Road, Gloucester,
Gloucestershire,
GL1 3NN

If your child is critically ill or may need to be admitted to hospital, please call 999 and they will be taken via ambulance to GRH. This is where our specialist paediatricians (children's doctors) are based and they can provide your child with the care they need.

- All ambulances bringing children to hospital go to GRH, at any time of day or night.
- You can also bring children to GRH yourself at any time of day or night.

Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH)

Sandford Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
GL53 7AN

You should bring your child to CGH only when you are confident they will not need a hospital admission. If your child is likely to require an overnight stay and you are bringing them to hospital yourself, please go straight to GRH.

- There are no specialist emergency facilities for ill children to be seen in Cheltenham except during the day time (8am to 8pm) when they can see children with minor injury or illness ONLY.
- Children should NOT be brought to CGH at night time.

Please turn over for where and how to seek help when your child is unwell



*The definition for this purpose of 'child' is 16 or under

As a parent you have great instincts – use them.

If you feel that your child is unwell, or you are unable to care for them, seek medical help

	Green	Amber	Red
APPEARANCE	✓ Normal skin, lips and tongue colour ✓ Responding normally / still smiling ✓ Stays awake or wakes up easily ✓ Normal cry or strong cry	⚠ Child becoming worse / parents more concerned ⚠ Less activity / more sleepy than usual ⚠ Change in normal behaviour / not acting in usual manner ⚠ Irritable / no smile	✗ Hard to wake ✗ Floppy or listless ✗ Mottled, blue or ashen skin ✗ Child had or having a fit (seizure) ✗ Rash that does NOT disappear under pressure (glass test) ✗ Neck stiffness ✗ High pitched, weak or continuous cry ✗ Bile stained sick (green / yellow) ✗ Bulging fontanelle (soft spot)
BREATHING / CHEST	✓ Breathing normally with no wheeze ✓ Mild cough or runny nose without affecting breathing	⚠ Noisy breathing / wheezy / fast breathing / nasal 'flaring'	✗ Grunting / very fast breathing ✗ Can see effort of breathing in chest and/or nose ✗ Breathless – unable to talk in sentences
HYDRATION	✓ Baby feeding / child drinking as normal or slightly reduced ✓ Sick, but drinking & keeping most fluids down ✓ Diarrhoea for less than 2 days ✓ Passing urine, normal colour or slightly darker than usual	⚠ Poor feeding in infants / child not drinking ⚠ Less wet nappies than usual / less urine or darker concentrated urine ⚠ Drinking much less / unable to keep much fluid down ⚠ Sick more than 3 times in 24 hours for babies under 1 year ⚠ Diarrhoea 6 times in 24 hours for babies < 1 yr ⚠ Diarrhoea for longer than 2 days for over 1's	✗ Sunken fontanelle (soft spot) ✗ Very little urine / dry nappies
TEMPERATURE	✓ Temperature raised but controlled by Ibuprofen or Paracetamol if given	⚠ Temperature more than 3-5 days or not controlled by paracetamol and ibuprofen ⚠ Over 3 months – temperature over 39°C (102°F)	✗ 0-3 months – temperature over 38°C (101°F) ✗ High temperature over 39°C (102°F) and cold hands and feet ✗ Any child with a high temperature & fitting (seizure)



CARE AT HOME

- ✓ Your local pharmacist, health visitor or NHS 111 can give advice
- ✓ Check www.nhs.uk
- ✓ Consider paracetamol & ibuprofen
- ✓ Encourage rest and drinks, even if only in small amounts

GP / NHS 111

- ⚠ Phone your GP for an appointment – most GP's will see your child on the day if you are worried about their health
- ⚠ NHS 111 can advise you if you are unsure which service you need, or guide you to appropriate out of hours care

URGENT HELP REQUIRED

- ✗ Take your child to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital A&E department
- ✗ CALL 999 FOR 'RED' BREATHING DIFFICULTIES OR A NON-BLANCHING RASH (rash that does not fade and lose colour under pressure – glass test)