

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 sites.

Solihull Hospital has not offered full A&E services for many years, rather running a very successful Minor Injuries Unit. However, signage at the site and on surrounding routes still advertises an A&E department at Solihull Hospital. Signage will be changed to reflect the Minor Injuries Unit service offered. This has been agreed with the Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board, as well as being agreed as part of the wider public consultation regarding an Urgent Care Centre on the Solihull Hospital site.

We want you to know that Solihull Hospital does not treat seriously ill or injured children, who should go instead to Birmingham Heartlands Hospital in an emergency as there is a dedicated Children's A&E at Heartlands Hospital.

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 that Solihull Hospital does not offer a full A&E service.

Serious symptoms that may require attention from the paediatrics team at Heartlands include breathing difficulties, severe tummy pain, high temperature, headache, drowsiness, possible meningitis rash and nosebleeds. If children with these symptoms are brought to Solihull, they 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 of course your GP, pharmacist or NHS 111 may be able to help.

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

Examples of conditions that need treatment 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

If you are not sure where to take an ill or injured child, you can telephone NHS 111. Most difficulties that arise with children needing urgent transfer from Solihull to Heartlands A&E are with pre-school age children. If in doubt, with younger children it's much better to take younger children directly to the Children's A&E at Heartlands Hospital.

The internal signage at the hospital will be changed from A&E to a Minor Injuries Unit during late February with the external signage around the local roads network to be changed by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council in the coming months. Once the Urgent Care Centre procurement is underway we will review the situation to reflect the new service.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ola Erinfolami
Clinical Director in Accident & Emergency