

Taking your child home before treatment or assessment is finished

You've told our team that you want to take your child home before the doctors have finished checking them or giving the treatment they think is needed.

We understand that this is a big decision, and there may be many reasons for it. If you can, please talk to us about why you've chosen to leave. We're here to listen and help.

What you should know

- You **have the right** to take your child home.
- But this choice is **against medical advice**. You came here because a doctor or nurse thought your child needed help and our advice remains that your child should wait to be seen.
- We still want to work with you to give your child the best care possible, even if you decide to leave.
- If the team believes your child could be in **serious danger**, they **MUST** contact **ambulance control, social services or the police** to keep your child safe.

Please talk to us

- We know the hospital can be busy and you might have to wait, but talking to a doctor or nurse before you go is really important. We may be able to give helpful advice, or guidance on next steps.
- Watching your child for a while in hospital helps us understand what's wrong and decide the best tests or treatment.

If you leave

If you take your child home and become very concerned about their health, please call 999. You may prefer to seek help through 111, your GP, a walk-in centre or pharmacy, or an Emergency Department if necessary.

We strongly advise you seek review if:

1. You are concerned your child is getting more poorly, or not recovering as expected.
 2. If fever continues to be above 39°C or does not respond to paracetamol/ibuprofen.
 3. Your child has a new non-blanching rash (doesn't disappear when you press on it).
 4. Your child is having significant or worsening difficulty breathing.
 5. Your child is lethargic (sleepy) and difficult to rouse.
 6. Your child is vomiting and not able to keep down fluids.
- If your child has already been seen by the children's medical team, you can call and return to the assessment unit within 48 hours without needing a new referral. Your discharge papers will have the relevant details. If your child has not yet seen a doctor, we are not able to offer 48 hour access.

Department address and contact information

Paediatric departments at Good Hope and Heartlands Hospitals

Good Hope Hospital: Children's Assessment Unit (CAU) and Harvey Ward
– 0121 424 9708 or 0121 424 7206

Heartlands Hospital: Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU), Wards 15,16,
and High Dependency Unit (HDU)
– 0121 424 2215 or 0121 424 0515

Accessibility

To view this information in a different language or use text-to-speech reader visit **www.uhb.nhs.uk**, click the yellow and black circular icon in the bottom right of the web page to open the ReachDeck toolbar, and then use the search bar to search by the name of the leaflet. If you require this information in another format such as braille, please email interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk.



How did we do? 😊 😐 😞

If you have recently used our services we'd love to hear about your experience. Please scan the QR code or follow the link to share your feedback to help us improve our services. **Thank you.** www.uhb.nhs.uk/fft



Common Reasons Parents Choose to Leave

Please mark the reasons that are true for you:

- You need to care for other children/family members at home ☐
- Your child seems better now ☐
- You don't think your child needs more medical help ☐
- The wait is too long ☐
- You don't agree with the treatment plan ☐
- Your child finds the hospital upsetting and might feel better at home ☐

Other reason _____

If You Decide to Leave



Please fill in the form below to show that you understand you're leaving against medical advice and give this page to a member of staff before you leave.

Your child's name: _____

Your child's date of birth: _____

Your relationship to child: (eg mother, father, guardian): _____

Your name: _____

Your contact phone number: _____

Signature:

Date and Time: