

## Patient information

# Risks of harm in babies and young children from hearing aid battery swallowing or insertion

### ***National Patient Safety Alert***

Your child's NHS hearing aid/s are powered by lithium batteries. Babies and young children (under 5 years old) and vulnerable adults can suffer serious injury if they swallow coin/button batteries or put them into their nostrils or ears.

Batteries can become lodged in their narrow oesophagus (throat) and cause rapid tissue damage, puncturing and bleeding.

It is therefore vital that batteries are kept secure and out of reach of young children and vulnerable adults.

If swallowing or insertion is suspected, please take your child immediately to the nearest Emergency Department for removal and treatment.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)*

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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