



## **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

### **Head injury observation instructions for parents and guardians**

Following a head injury, you should keep your child under adult supervision for the next 24 hours. If any concern arises that he/she is developing a problem, please seek advice from this Emergency Department or, if necessary, make arrangements to bring him/her back to hospital

#### ***The signs that you should look out for are:***

- If your child becomes unusually sleepy or is hard to wake up
- Headache all the time, despite painkillers.
- Repeated vomiting
- Weakness of arms or legs, e.g. unable to hold things
- Difficulty in seeing, walking, or acts clumsy and uncoordinated.
- Confusion (not knowing where he/she is, getting things muddled up).
- Fluid or blood coming from ear or nose.
- Fits (convulsions or seizures)
- Any other abnormal behaviour.

***Your child should be allowed to sleep as normal. We would encourage you to arrange to observe him/her on a couple of occasions overnight to check:***

- Does he/she appear to be breathing normally?
- Is he/she sleeping in a normal posture?
- Does he/she make the expected response when you rouse him/her gently? (e.g. pulling up sheets, cuddling teddy-bear)
- If you cannot satisfy yourself that your child is sleeping normally, he/she should be wakened fully to be checked.

***If you are concerned about any of the above or have any other worries please contact Royal Hospital for Children, Emergency Department.***

**Telephone 0141~ 452 ~ 4055**

**REMEMBER TO GIVE YOUR CHILD PAINKILLERS FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BOTTLE**