

Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for adult patients who have children they are responsible for. This includes adult patients attending QVH Minor Injury Unit, any clinics, staying in hospital or being cared for by a team of specialists

What is this leaflet about?

This leaflet is about the duty of health workers (including doctors and nurses) in safeguarding children and young people under the age of 18 years

Why do we need to safeguard children and young people?

The law places a duty on all NHS staff to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and protect them from significant harm. There are assessment processes that QVH staff must follow if adult patients have children.

QVH is committed to providing a high standard of service for the health and well-being of every person seen by its staff. Some adult patients will have children who have the right to be kept safe

What does this mean if an adult has an injury?

People often have accidental injuries; however, some adult injuries might seem to indicate that a child/children in the family might not be safe.

Injuries can occur in many different ways. Whenever doctors, nurses and other health professionals see a person with injuries they have a legal duty to consider how the injuries happened and whether the patient's family are safe or might need support. During QVH health assessments staff will ask about the injury.

What happened?

Was it witnessed?

What first aid was given?

Which health services gave you advice or saw you?

Can you write down what happened?

If it is unclear how an injury occurred or if there is potential risk to other family members staff may ask more questions to help them consider what has happened and help them decide what to do next.

What does this mean if an adult has children?

The needs and risks of each adult and their family are considered by QVH staff. QVH staff will ask about:

- Any history which has been given about the injury?
- An explanation for any injury?
- Record what is observed and heard?

Who is in your family?

Who can support you and your family when you go home?

They will explain to you what they are concerned about.

Sharing information and confidentiality

Sometimes a nurse or doctor will seek advice or information from someone else in QVH, such as a: consultant, paediatrician, orthodontist, therapist, surgeon, senior nurse, safeguarding nurse.

Staff may come back to you and ask for more information to help them better understand what has happened.

We may need to talk about your child and family with people who know you such as your GP, health visitor, school nurse, mental health worker, social worker, and/or police if they are involved.

We will keep you informed and offer help and support.

The information we collect about you and your family will be stored in written records and on a secure NHS computer system.

When you are discharged from QVH we always write to your GP to let them know what health care has been provided.

The safety of you and your children is important and this is our first concern at all times. We will work with you to achieve this goal.

What happens next?

This will depend on the outcome of the QVH assessments. QVH treatment and advice will be provided. As well as this it may be agreed that liaison with, or referral to, other services may be required to support you and your family.

Who can I talk to about my care at QVH?

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment please speak to a member of staff or the hospital Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

If you are unhappy with your care or the process we have followed, talk it over with your nurse, or doctor, or the nurse in charge of the Minor Injury Unit, ward or clinic.

You may speak to the hospital Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

You can ask your nurse to contact them or get in touch directly on **01342 414355** or **qvh.pals@nhs.net**

If you would like this leaflet in a larger font or different format please let us know

Safeguarding Children and Young People

A guide for adult patients

Safeguarding
Issue 1 - Ref: no. 0685
Approved by the Patient Information Group
Print June 2020 – Review June 2023

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