

## After Your Child's Drug Challenge - Information For Parents And Carers

This leaflet explains what happens now that your child has successfully completed an oral drug challenge. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Allergy and Respiratory Clinical Nurse specialists on **01392 402682**.

### What medicines has my child had today?

Today (...../...../.....) your child has had a drug challenge to

.....

and received a total dose of .....

### What happens now?

Although your child did not show any signs or symptoms of an **immediate** type allergic reaction whilst in hospital, it is important that you continue to monitor for signs of a **delayed** allergic reaction. A delayed reaction can occur 6 to 48 hours after the drug challenge. Important signs to look out for include:

- Blotchy rash all over the body, not related to eczema or a virus
- Hives anywhere on the body
- Worsening of eczema
- Being sick (vomiting) more than once
- Recurrent or prolonged significant diarrhoea
- Moderate to severe tummy ache
- Runny nose and eyes unrelated to a cold or hayfever

If your child suffers from any of the symptoms listed above, please **stop** the drug and **treat** with an antihistamine, such as cetirizine or loratadine, and/or see your **GP** if required. It would be helpful to take a **photo** of any rash, if possible. Please contact respiratory clinical nurse specialists on **01392 402682** to report the reaction as soon as possible.

The following symptoms suggest a more severe allergic reaction:

If your child has redness and peeling of the skin, particularly of the mouth or around the eyes, or a rash similar to multiple cold sores **stop** the drug and seek **urgent** medical help.

**Also, any signs of a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis:**

- Swelling of the face, eyes, hands or feet
- Coughing or wheezing unrelated to a cold
- Breathlessness
- Itching and swelling in the mouth
- Tight throat
- Difficulty in breathing or swallowing
- Weakness, floppiness or collapse

If your child experiences any of the above symptoms:

**Call 999 for an ambulance or go to your nearest A&E immediately**

**If your child has an adrenaline autoinjector (Epipen, Jext, Emerade) for this type of allergic reaction, follow your child's emergency plan**

**Do not give your child any more of the drug**

## If your child has had an antibiotic challenge

Side effects of some antibiotics include nausea and mild diarrhoea, this can be normal and not an allergic reaction.

To complete your child's antibiotic challenge, it is important to continue a short course of the antibiotic after leaving the hospital. Tomorrow, your child should take:

(name and dose of antibiotic)

.....

..... times per day, for ..... days.

Please follow the above information in order to look for signs of a delayed allergic reaction. If your child shows any signs or symptoms of a delayed reaction, follow the corresponding advice and do not give any further doses of the antibiotic.

Once your child has finished the course of antibiotics, please call the clinical nurse specialists on **01392 402682** to let us know that your child has been well whilst taking the medication. We will then write to your GP to confirm that your child is not allergic to this particular antibiotic, and it can be safely prescribed if needed in the future.

## What can my child do at home?

When you get home, encourage quiet play and activities such as reading, colouring, or watching TV. Your child should avoid strenuous play and exercise for the rest of the day, as these activities could bring on a delayed reaction, or make an allergic reaction worse.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's drug challenge, please contact the paediatric allergy secretary on **01392 406633** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

## Your comments and feedback

If you would like to comment about your experience of our services, or if you would like advice, support or to raise a concern to somebody other than the staff caring for your child, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on **01392 402093**. You can also email PALS at **rde-tr.PALS@nhs.net**. The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and are often able to solve problems on behalf of patients.

This information can be offered in other formats on request, including a language other than English and Braille.

**RD&E (Eastern Services) main switchboard: 01392 411611      NDDH (Northern Services) main switchboard: 01271 322577**

**For Royal Devon services log on to: <https://royaldevon.nhs.uk>**

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