

Hearing aid battery safety advice

This leaflet explains more about safe use, storage and disposal of hearing aid batteries. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to the audiology team.

Stopping children accessing batteries inside hearing aids

Children who are 5 years old or younger will be given hearing aids that have a tamperproof battery compartment. It is important that the tamperproof compartment is securely fastened when the hearing aids are being used. When they are not in use, the battery compartment should be opened to switch off the hearing aid, and the hearing aid should be stored out of sight and reach of young children. You will be given a hearing aid case and/or drying beaker which they can be stored in.

Children over 5 years old

If your child is over five years old, but you think it would be safer if they had a tamperproof battery door on their hearing aid, just ask the audiology team during your appointment.

Siblings (brothers and sisters), nurseries and childminders

If your child has siblings who are under 5 years old, or if they go to a nursery or childminder with young children, tell the audiologist at your child's hearing aid review. If there are younger siblings at home or your child is cared for with younger children it is important that tamperproof doors be fitted to their hearing aids. It is also important to make sure that spare batteries are kept out of sight and reach of any small children.

Storing spare and used batteries safely

Below are tips to help prevent the risk of battery ingestion:

- Store batteries out of sight and reach of children.
- When changing hearing aid batteries, make sure the packet of spare batteries is not left in the reach of children.
- Do not store spare or used batteries around food items.
- Avoid storing spare and used batteries in pill boxes or with medication. The small size and shape means they can easily be mistaken for sweets or medication.
- Make sure spare batteries are not left loose on surfaces where a child might pick them up, or they might fall under furniture or onto the floor.

How can I safely dispose of used batteries?

Before you get rid of used batteries, they should be stored in a sealed container - safely out of the reach of your children. Used batteries can be put in battery recycling bins, which can be found in most places that sell button batteries, supermarkets, or your local recycling centre. You can also return your used batteries to the audiology clinic.

What should you do if your child has swallowed a battery?

Seek immediate medical attention at your nearest Emergency Department (A&E).

Important: If your child swallows a battery seek immediate medical attention and do not let them eat or drink until a doctor can determine if a battery is present. Take the battery packaging with you and tell the doctor that the batteries are 'zinc air' batteries for hearing aids.

Useful sources of information

British and Irish Portable Battery Association

w: www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries

European Portable Battery Association

w: www.buttonbatterysafety.com

RoSPA

t: 01212 482 107, **w:** www.rospace.com/button-batteries/

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about battery safety, please contact the audiology team, **t:** 020 3049 8560, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. Out of hours, call NHS 111, **t:** 111.

Children & Young People's Audiology Centre, 2nd floor, Staircase C, South Wing, St Thomas' Hospital, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH, **e:** gst-tr.CYPACenquiries@nhs.net

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **w:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and Accessible Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch. **t:** 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day. **t:** 111 **w:** 111.nhs.uk

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