

Using photos to monitor your child's wound

This leaflet explains how we use photos of your child's wound to monitor for signs of infection after they leave hospital. This should be used with information we have given you about caring for your child's wound. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

Why we are giving this photo and advice

Most wounds heal quickly and without any problems. However, it is important to check the wound regularly so that, if the wound becomes infected or starts to open, we can treat it quickly. It can be difficult to remember what the wound looked like when your child was discharged. Taking a photo makes it easier for you and the clinical teams to see what is happening to the wound.

We know that wounds are at risk of developing infections in the days and weeks after discharge - particularly in smaller children and those with complex heart conditions. The aim is to notice any changes, and treat the wound earlier, without having to bring your child back to Evelina London, although sometimes we might need to review it in person.

How it works

If you are happy to use the secure app (called Isla), one of the ward team will enter your child's details onto it. This will include information about them, the type of surgery they had, and the stitches we used to close the wound. They will, with your consent, add a photo to the system. This will act as a starting point for monitoring the wound.

Is it secure?

Yes. The web platform is secure and is maintained in line with NHS guidelines on managing patient data. The only people who have access to the full data are the clinical team caring for your child. This is so that they can review the images we have if there are concerns about the wound, or as part of the follow-up after surgery.

What you need to do

We might ask you to submit a new photo in the next 2 weeks, or if you ring with concerns about the wound. To submit a photo, we will send you a link via text message or email. You only need to click on the link, take the photo, and we might ask you for some extra information. There are no downloads or apps to be installed on your phone, tablet or computer.

What happens next?

The clinical team will review the photo and any information with it, and will decide if any treatment is needed. We will contact you to let you know if any action is needed.

Does your child have to take part in this project?

No, and it won't affect the care or advice that will be given to you to manage your child's healing wound at home.

Useful sources of information

As well as providing you some information with the photo, you will also be given a copy of our leaflet, **Caring for your child's heart wound at home**. The nurses caring for your child will give you specific advice about your child's wound care when you go home.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's wound, please contact the cardiac outreach team, **tel:** 020 7188 4546, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, **email:** paediatriccardiologyoutreachnurses@gstt.nhs.uk
Out of hours, please call, **tel:** 020 7188 8849 and speak to the nurse in charge.

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

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, **tel:** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm, **email:** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), **tel:** 020 7188 8801, **email:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk. To make a complaint, contact the complaints department, **tel:** 020 7188 3514, **email:** 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, **tel:** 020 7188 8815, **email:** 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, **tel** 111, **web:** 111.nhs.uk

NHS website

Online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing, **web:** www.nhs.uk



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