

ADVICE CARD FOR CHILDREN

Following a Burn/Scald Injury



**ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY
DEPARTMENT DISCHARGE
ADVICE**

Minor burns and scalds

This leaflet contains discharge advice following your child's attendance to the Accident & Emergency Department (A&E).

What is a Burn?

A **burn** is a type of injury to skin, or other tissues, caused by heat, cold, electricity, chemicals, friction, or radiation. Most **burns** are due to heat from hot liquids, solids, or fire.

What type of burn is it?

- **Superficial burn** – These affect just the surface layer of the skin, causing redness and pain.
- **Partial thickness burns** – These are deeper burns, causing skin to become blotchy and red or pale pink. These burns may become painful and develop blisters.
- **Full thickness burns** – These burns cause damage to all layers of the skin. This results in the skin becoming brown or white and leathery in appearance. These burns require specialist treatment and your child will likely be referred to a specialist burns unit.

Burn and scalds can blister. To treat your child's burn/scald effectively we may have to remove the top of the blister (**This will cause minimal to no discomfort at all**). The blister roof (Skin) has died and we need to remove the fluid underneath

Burns to the body, arms or legs

Burns in these areas are treated with special dressings which are designed to stop infections getting into the body. You should:

- Keep the dressing clean and dry
- Give painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen if necessary, as directed on the bottle or packet.
- Keep the burnt area up in the air as much as possible
- Keep moving any joints near the burn to reduce stiffness

Burns to the hands and feet

The general advice for these burns is the same as for burns to the body, arms or legs (see above). We may treat the burn by using a special antiseptic cream (Flamazine). We will apply a non-adhesive dressing with bandage support.

This will allow you to keep moving your other limbs around the affected area.

Burns to the face

Burns to the face are usually left open. You may have been given

cream to apply to keep the skin moist while it heals. Petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline) can also be used for this. You should apply this as advised until the burn has healed. You should:

- Wash your child's face once a day with water. Wash around the burn.
- **DO NOT** use perfumed soap
- Avoid cosmetics and face creams

What to look out for

You should contact/return to the A&E Department if any of the following occur:

- Your child's dressing gets wet or falls off.
- Your child becomes unwell. Develops a high temperature or develops a rash.
- Loss of appetite.
- Diarrhoea.
- The burn becomes swollen.
- The burn becomes more painful.

- The area of redness around the burn gets bigger

Later on

Although the skin may appear discoloured for several months your child's burn should be healed over within about 10 days. The healed skin will probably be sensitive to sunlight for several months after a burn. You should always cover it up or use a high strength sun block if you are exposed to strong sunlight.

Your child has been treated for a minor burn or scald. If your child needs to return for further treatment and redressing, you will be advised before discharge. They may be referred to the children's team for re dressing and monitoring.

If your child is up to date with his/hers childhood immunisation they will not require a Tetanus Injection.

Tetanus is a serious infection which can occasionally get into the body via a wound. It can be prevented by a series of injections or booster. If your child has had all of their immunisations and vaccines as a child, they may not require any further treatment for this.

If you are at all concerned about your injury please contact your GP or attend your local Accident & Emergency department for further assessment.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR FURTHER ADVICE

Fairfield General Hospital – 0161 778 2896 / 0161 778 2891
Rochdale Urgent Care Centre – 01706 517302 / 01706 517799
North Manchester General Hospital – 0161 720 3623 / 0161 720 2617

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
TEL: 0161 627 8926
THE ROYAL OLDHAM HOSPITAL
ROCHDALE ROAD, OLDHAM. OL12JH