

# Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome

**Children's Services**

**Women & Children's Services**

**This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your child's condition, and to answer some common queries you may have.**

# Information for patients and visitors

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## Introduction

The aim of this leaflet is to provide you with relevant information regarding Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome.

## What is Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome?

- Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome is an infection of the skin
- It causes the skin to become red, sore and blistered
- These blisters have the appearance of a scald or a burn, hence its name

## What causes it?

- Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome is caused by bacteria called Staphylococcus Aureus
- In Staphylococcus Scalded Skin Syndrome the Staphylococcus Aureus bacteria commonly infects the throat, eyes or ears
- It then produces toxins that cause the skin to peel and blister

## How do you get Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome?

- A large proportion of the adult population carries the Staphylococcal bacteria in their nose, throat or mouth without becoming infected or unwell
- The bacteria are easily passed onto others from the hands of these 'carriers'

## Who gets Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome?

Children and babies under 6 years old are most at risk of developing Staphylococcus Scalded Skin Syndrome as their immune system has not yet developed a natural protection against bacteria which older children and adults have.

## What are the symptoms?

- Affected children usually feel unwell, lethargic (lacking energy), irritable and sometimes have a fever
- The skin becomes red and painful, it then blisters and the skin peels, leaving raw patches
- This blistering usually occurs where the skin touches clothes, bedding or skin to skin contact, usually under arms, around the neck, trunk and groin areas
- Children often have red, sore and crusted areas around the mouth and sometimes sticky eyes



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## How is it diagnosed?

- A diagnosis will be made based on your child's symptoms and by examining him / her
- Swabs will be taken, usually from the throat and skin to try and confirm the presence of the Staphylococcal bacteria
- Blood tests will also help confirm the diagnosis

## What is the treatment?

- Treatment will vary depending on your child's symptoms
- Antibiotics are necessary to treat the Staphylococcal bacteria
- To begin with these will be given intravenously, through a drip or cannula (small tube) inserted into your child's vein
- Once your child is recovering well then these antibiotics will be changed to oral medicines, which can be continued at home
- As the skin is painful it is helpful for children to be nursed only in underwear / nappies
- Also, affected children do not like to be handled or cuddled as this causes more pain and blistering
- It is often necessary to treat the blistered areas like burns and therefore burns dressings may be used
- Other treatment may include creams and eye drops
- As the skin heals it becomes dry and itchy, in this case medication may be given for the itching and moisturisers may be used on the skin and in the bath until this resolves
- Pain relief is important and a combination of Paracetamol, Ibruprofen and oral Morphine may be used to keep pain under control
- If your child is refusing to drink or is finding it difficult or painful, then a drip may be used to give intravenous fluids until your child is drinking better

## What is the prognosis?

- Children and babies with Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome do very well and will make a good recovery
- The skin usually heals and returns to normal in 10-14 days
- As the blisters are very superficial (on the surface) they will heal without scarring

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## Risks

- As your child has open blisters then he / she is vulnerable to getting an infection of these areas
- For this reason your child will be nursed in a single cubicle and all visitors should wash their hands before entering the room

## Alternatives

Currently there is no alternative treatment available for this condition.

## When will my child be discharged?

Your child will see a senior doctor or consultant every day and he / she will be discharged home with oral medication when the doctor feels he / she is ready.

## Do we need to be seen again?

- For a few days following discharge your child will usually be followed up by the Children's Community nurses
- Please see your child's nurse for more details
- Your child will be seen again by a consultant on the ward or in the clinic if they feel it is necessary

## Contact details within the Trust for patients to obtain additional information

Rainforest Ward, Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby  
Telephone: 03033 304477

Children's Services Community Nursing Team – Grimsby  
Telephone: 03033 304509

Disney Ward, Scunthorpe General Hospital, Scunthorpe  
Telephone: 03033 302553

Children's Services Community Nursing Team – Scunthorpe  
Telephone: 03033 306153

## References

[www.nottinghameczema.org.uk](http://www.nottinghameczema.org.uk)



# Information for patients and visitors

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## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service offers confidential advice, support and information on any health related matters.

If you have a comment, concern, complaint or compliment about the care or service you have received from the Trust you can contact the PALS team as follows:

Telephone: 03033 306518

Email: [nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

There are also offices at both the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital (near the main entrance) and Scunthorpe General Hospital (on the C Floor, near the outpatient department), should you wish to visit.

**Please note: PALS should not be contacted for clinical advice relating to the content of this leaflet. The service should be contacted directly in the first instance.**

## Confidentiality and How We Use Data

Personal information on NHS patients is collected and recorded within paper and electronic formats primarily to support high quality care that is safe and effective. To do this, information is also used to support quality improvement activities, investigate any concerns you may raise as well as to support and understand NHS performance. All NHS staff have a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it. Other circumstances where information may be shared include administrative teams to plan future care needed, commissioners of Trust services, other NHS or social care providers and in some cases voluntary sector providers.

## Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients who are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.



# Information for patients and visitors

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## Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

## Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

## Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital**  
Scartho Road  
Grimsby  
DN33 2BA

**Scunthorpe General Hospital**  
Cliff Gardens  
Scunthorpe  
DN15 7BH

**Goole & District Hospital**  
Woodland Avenue  
Goole  
DN14 6RX

03033 306999

[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

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