

Emergency Healthcare Plans

A guide for parents and carers



RCPCH
Royal College of
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What is an Emergency Healthcare Plan?

An Emergency Healthcare Plan is a brief document containing the key information about your child's condition. In the event of an emergency situation, having an Emergency Healthcare Plan can make communication easier and ensure that your child:

- is treated as promptly as possible
- receives the right treatment
- has the right experts involved in their care.

What are the benefits of having a plan?

There are a number of benefits to having an Emergency Healthcare Plan.

In the event of an emergency, knowing that your child's care will be based on their needs and wishes can provide you with peace of mind and a sense of control.

As the Emergency Healthcare Plan contains all of the key information about your child's condition, it can be used in any setting accessed by your child, such as school or nursery, short breaks or leisure activities.

The plan will include contact details for you and your key healthcare professionals, clear information regarding your child's current treatment and any emergency scenario that may arise such as seizures or vomiting. Instructions for paramedics or the

ambulance service may be included if appropriate to you/your local area.

An Emergency Healthcare Plan also supports parents and carers in a medical emergency – children with complex needs or rare disorders may be taking a large number of different medications. In a stressful emergency situation the plan could assist you in providing the correct information regarding medication and current dosages.

Emergency Healthcare Plans are written and signed by your child's key health worker, usually your consultant paediatrician, in discussion with you as parent or carer and where possible with your child. The plan will assist you in sharing key information about your child and, as it is signed by a senior medical practitioner, will be readily accepted by frontline staff caring for your child.

My child doesn't have a plan. How do I get one?

If your child doesn't have an Emergency Healthcare Plan, speak to your consultant paediatrician or key health worker. Further information and an example plan can be found at:

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/ehp

Resources aimed at professionals and template forms used by various health authorities are available to download from the CDC website:

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/ehp

