

After an Antibiotic Challenge

This leaflet explains what happens now that your child has had an oral antibiotic challenge in hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

Which antibiotics did your child have today?

Today (..... / /), your child has had a drug challenge to
and received a total dose of

What symptoms did your child have today?

Your child did not show any signs or symptoms of an immediate type of allergic reaction whilst on the unit today.

What should you do on discharge?

To detect any signs of a delayed allergic reaction, it is important to take the antibiotic for a further three days at home.

What happens if your child has an allergic reaction at home?

If your child shows any signs of an allergic reaction during the next three days at home, such as itching, redness, swelling or a rash:

- STOP the antibiotic
- Treat with an antihistamine such as cetirizine
- If you can, please take some photos of the rash that occurs

- Do not give any more doses of the antibiotic
- When your child is settled, please call the allergy service to report the reaction.

If your child has redness and peeling of the skin, particularly the mouth, around the eyes, STOP the antibiotic and seek medical help.

What if your child develops a more severe allergic reaction?

If your child shows any signs or symptoms of a more severe allergic reaction such as coughing, wheezing, breathlessness, throat tightening or collapse (known as anaphylaxis), **dial 999 for an ambulance immediately.**

If your child has ever been issued an adrenaline autoinjector (EpiPen, Jext or Emerade) for this type of allergic reaction, follow your emergency plan.

Do not give your child anymore of the antibiotic.

What happens when the course of antibiotics is completed?

We will call you once your child has completed the course of antibiotics to check that there has been no delayed reaction. If your child has had no allergic reaction to the course of antibiotics, we will write to your GP and you to say that your child is NOT allergic to the antibiotic tested and this can be prescribed if needed in the future.

Further information

Anaphylaxis Campaign

[Anaphylaxis UK | Supporting people with serious allergies | Anaphylaxis UK](#)

or tel. 01252 542 029

Allergy UK [Allergy UK | National Charity](#) or tel. 01322 619898

Contact us

If you have any questions or worries regarding your child's allergies, please call the allergy nurses on 020 8725 4219, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) between 8.30am to 4.30pm. This is not an emergency number.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments, and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm
Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times.

The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing.

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



Reference: ALG_ABC_LP_01 **Published:** September 2023 **Review date:** September 2025