

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Battery Safety

**It is potentially dangerous for anyone to swallow any battery.**

If this happens, *immediately* contact your nearest accident and emergency department (casualty) – local number below.

Let them know what type of battery has been swallowed and how long ago. Take a similar battery and the packaging with you so that the hospital staff can identify the type of battery and know what action they need to take.

**Try not to let young children see batteries being changed.**

It is safer if they do not know that the battery compartment opens. You can ask your audiologist to fit a childproof battery lock to the hearing aids if you are concerned.

**Young children can also get small batteries stuck in their nose and ears**

You may not notice until they start to cause ulcers or other problems. It is important to keep a check on your batteries. It is good practice to keep your used batteries in the original packaging so that you can keep them safe and ensure that no old batteries have gone missing.

**Batteries need to be stored correctly**

Batteries should not touch each other. If the batteries still have power in them, they can get hot if their terminals touch another battery resulting in a fire risk.

**Get rid of used batteries carefully**

Batteries contain chemicals that could be harmful. Used batteries should be recycled. Many local councils now have recycling schemes for batteries including household collection. Alternatively, many large stores offer boxes to keep old batteries in as well as recycling schemes. Many audiology clinics also have recycling boxes to return the batteries to.

Torbay Hospital Accident and emergency number.

01803 654003

The department is located in the main building on level 3.

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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Working with you, for you