

# PATIENT INFORMATION

# Heart Murmurs – Information for Parents

## What is a heart murmur?

A murmur is an extra sound heard when the heart is listened to with a stethoscope.

#### Does a heart murmur mean that there is a heart problem?

No. Most babies with heart murmurs have completely normal hearts. These murmurs are called innocent heart murmurs. Some babies will have a problem such as a small hole in the heart or a narrowing causing the murmur.

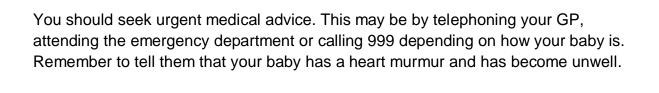
#### How will I know if my baby has a heart problem?

Your baby will be seen in the paediatric clinic. If the murmur is still present then your baby will be referred on to see a specialist who may do further tests.

### What should I look out for?

Most babies with heart murmurs are well but if your baby becomes unwell they should be seen urgently by a doctor. Signs to look out for include breathing difficulties, becoming breathless or sweaty when feeding, poor feeding, blue colour of skin and lips or mottled skin.

#### What should I do if my baby becomes unwell?



#### **IMPORTANT POINTS:**

A heart murmur is just an extra sound

Most babies with murmurs have normal hearts

A heart murmur can sometimes be a sign of an underlying heart problem

IF YOUR BABY BECOMES UNWELL SEEK URGENT MEDICAL ADVICE

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