

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?

You should seek urgent medical advice. This may be by telephoning your GP, attending the emergency department or calling 999 depending on how your baby is. Remember to tell them that your baby has a heart murmur and has become 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.