



**National
Patient
Safety Alert**

NHS

South Tees Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

RISK OF HARM TO **Vulnerable Adults, Babies and Children from coin/button batteries in hearing aids and other hearing devices**

**Babies and Young children (under 5 years) or Vulnerable Children/
Adults can suffer serious injuries if they ingest coin/button batteries
or poke them into their nostrils and ears.**

Batteries can become lodged in the narrow oesophagus and cause rapid tissue necrosis, perforation and haemorrhage.



In 2019 an alert was issued that brought to attention the risk to children and the need to treat this as a medical emergency

If you live or care for a baby, a child under 5 or a vulnerable child/adult then please enquire about secure battery compartments

Larger lithium batteries have the greatest potential to cause harm including **DEATH**

Make sure your hearing aid /batteries and tools are stored safely and away from the reach of vulnerable adults or children

Hearing aids/cochlear implants/bone conduction hearing devices (BCHD) and similar equipment use zinc air batteries which also present a **SIGNIFICANT RISK**

If you suspect ingestion, treat as a MEDICAL EMERGENCY

