

# Paediatric Virtual Ward

Information and advice for parents and guardians

## Paediatrics

### What is a virtual ward?

Virtual wards allow patients to get the care they need at home safely and conveniently, rather than being in hospital.

In a virtual ward, support can include remote monitoring using apps, technology platforms, wearables, and medical devices such as oxygen saturation monitor.

The paediatric virtual ward team are based at Sandwell General Hospital. We aim to promote earlier hospital discharge to improve patient flow on the acute in-patient wards and support hospital avoidance by patients being able to stay at home. Patients are provided with a full review from one of the virtual ward team.

Our current hours are Monday-Sunday 8am-8pm including bank holidays.

### What are our pathways?

We currently have 8 virtual pathways these are:

- Asthma/viral induced wheeze
- Bronchiolitis
- Constipation
- Diarrhoea & Vomiting
- Eczema
- Jaundice
- Nephrotic Syndrome
- Tonsillitis

### What happens on a virtual ward?

When your child is admitted onto a virtual ward, one of the team may come to your house for a face to face visit, offer an online video conference or call you on your telephone.

We may be required to collect a blood sample from your child. This is to ensure the correct results are obtained and to determine whether your child needs further treatment or not. Sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances, we may be required to take the sample again.

It is important that your child does not return to school or nursery during this admission, until we advise it is safe to do so. They may need to be at home so we can monitor them.

Depending on the assessment of your child, virtual ward nurses may need to provide emergency treatment or care to ensure the safety of your child. Virtual ward nurses may also advise you to take your child back to hospital or call for an ambulance if necessary.

Hopefully the virtual ward nurses will support you to care for your child at home until they can be discharged from our service.

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### If your child becomes unwell

**Call 999 or attend your local A&E if your child:**

- Is breathless or struggling to breathe
- Having a seizure
- Choking
- Very sleepy
- Limp and floppy
- Blue, grey, pale blotchy skin
- Sudden confusion
- Severe injuries/heavy bleeding

**If it is not a life threatening emergency please call virtual ward team if it is in hours or ring 111 if it is out of hours if your child has:**

- Slightly fast breathing
- Is sucking in around their ribcage or underneath their ribs
- Sounds more wheezy
- Is not taking half of their normal feeds/ drinks
- Is not regularly passing urine
- Is not playing like they normally would
- Increasing pain

**Good signs and readings that your child is improving and you are likely to be discharged from virtual ward:**

- Breathing as normal
- Taking more than half of their normal feeds or drinks
- Passing urine regularly
- Having a poo regularly
- Playing and behaving more like normal

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### Our contact information:

Telephone: 0121 507 2602 or 0121 507 2720 within working hours 8am - 8pm or leave a message.

Email: [swbh.paedvw@nhs.net](mailto:swbh.paedvw@nhs.net)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090524642525>

### Feedback on our service:

Please provide any information on our service at the following link. All responses are anonymous.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/child-and-family-questionnaire>

## Further Useful Information

### National Health Service

#### Virtual wards

[www.england.nhs.uk/virtual-wards/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/virtual-wards/)

(Website Accessed 23 March 2023).

### Healthier Together

Provides information leaflets about different childhood illnesses.

Home :: Healthier Together ([what0-18.nhs.uk](http://what0-18.nhs.uk))

(Website Accessed 23 March 2023)

## Sources used for the information in this leaflet

National Health Service (2023). What is a virtual ward? [Online] Available at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/virtual-wards/what-is-a-virtual-ward/> (Accessed 23 March 2023).

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact SWB Library Services on ext 3587 or email [swbh.library@nhs.net](mailto:swbh.library@nhs.net).



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