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**Self-Discharge
advice**



Patient information

Self-Discharge advice



Excellent patient care, together

Self-discharge

We are sorry to see that you have chosen to leave the department before being reviewed by a clinician. This is known as a self-discharge or a discharge against medical advice. You are taking full responsibility of your child's wellbeing when leaving.

We aim to assess children as quickly as possible. We appreciate that at times wait times can be long. All children will be seen in clinical priority. They are reassessed regularly with the nursing observations, followed by time order.

This leaflet provides carers/families with information before leaving the department. Please ensure you have discussed your child's condition with the Nurse in Charge of the Department before leaving.

Discussion with Nurse in charge.

- This is to provide you context of your child's current clinical status to ensure they are safe to leave.
- We may provide you with information of symptoms to look out for, and an advice leaflet relating to your child's presenting complaint.
- If your child has abnormal observations, the Nurse in Charge may ask to repeat these before you leave. They may ask you to remain until observations are within the normal parameters for your child's age.
- If you choose to leave and there are significant concerns for your child's health a 'welfare call' to the police may be made. This is only ever done to ensure your child's safety.
- A referral to Children's Services may also be completed if there are any safeguarding concerns about the presentation. This is done to ensure your child's safety.

What happens next

- All notes of children who leave before a clinical review, are reviewed by a senior clinician within 24 hours following a self-discharge.
- This review may result in the clinician calling to discuss how your child is. This call will be made from a private/unknown number. Not all families will receive a phone call.
- We would recommend a review by your GP within 24-48 hours if you chose to self-discharge
- If your child's condition deteriorates or you have further concerns, please return to the Children's Emergency department or call 999 if you feel it is a life-threatening emergency.

Further available advice

- NHS 111
- Your GP
- Healthier together website - <https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/>

How to contact us

Children's Emergency Department
Watford General Hospital
Vicarage Road
Watford
Hertfordshire WD18 0HB
Tel: 01923 217564
Hospital switchboard: 01923 244366

PALS

If you need this leaflet in another **language, large print, Braille or audio version**, please call **01923 217198** or email westherts.pals@nhs.net.



Language



Large Print



Braille



Audio

Concerns, complaints or suggestions

If you are unhappy with your experience or would like to give feedback, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). PALS is available to patients, relatives, carers and friends to raise concerns.

For more information, please scan the QR code or visit our [website](#).

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