Button Battery Ingestion in Children

UNDERSTAND, IDENTIFY and PREVENT to save young lives

#ButtonBatteryAwareness

UNDERSTAND: The Facts

Button battery ingestion (BBI) can lead to life-threatening complications and death if not identified early and dealt with quickly, as damage can occur within 2 hours.

There has been a 7-fold increase in the risk of severe injury due to BBI in the last two decades.

Most BBIs occur in children under 6 years old, with a peak in 1-year-olds.

IDENTIFY: The Symptoms

☐ Drooling
☐ Swallowing difficulty/pain
☐ Coughing
☐ Abdominal pain
☐ Weight loss
☐ Vomiting or coughing up blood
☐ High-pitched wheezing sound when breathing

☐ Irritability
☐ Chest pain
☐ Fever
☐ Hoarseness
☐ Shortness of breath
☐ Black, sticky, tar-like faeces

These symptoms cover both witnessed and unwitnessed ingestions.

PREVENT: The Consequences

Identify which devices use button batteries in your home (such as remote controls, watches and key fobs).

Do not leave discarded button batteries around the home – wrap waste batteries in clear tape, store them out of sight and reach of your children and dispose of them at a collection point as soon as possible.

Securely fasten the battery compartment after replacing a button battery.

IF YOU WITNESS OR SUSPECT YOUR CHILD HAS SWALLOWED A BUTTON BATTERY, SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION AT A HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM. DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD EAT OR DRINK. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING.