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For numbered affiliations see end of article.

Correspondence to

Dr Alison Kemp, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, Cardiff School of Medicine, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff, Wales CF14 4YS, UK; KempAM@cf.ac.uk

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Head injury from falls in children younger than 6 years of age

P Burrows,¹ L Trefan,¹ R Houston,² J Hughes,¹ G Pearson,³ R J Edwards,⁴ P Hyde,⁵ I Maconochie,⁶ R C Parslow,⁷ A M Kemp¹

ABSTRACT

The risk of serious head injury (HI) from a fall in a young child is ill defined. The relationship between the object fallen from and prevalence of intracranial injury (ICI) or skull fracture is described.

Method Cross-sectional study of HIs from falls in children (<6 years) admitted to UK hospitals, analysed according to the object fallen from and associated Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) or alert, voice, pain, unresponsive (AVPU) and CT scan results.

Results Of 1775 cases ascertained (median age 18 months, 54.7% boys), 87% (1552) had a GCS=15/ AVPU=alert. 19.3% (342) had a CT scan: 32% (110/342) were abnormal; equivalent to 5.9% of the overall population, 16.9% (58) had isolated skull fractures and 13.7% (47) had ICI (49% (23/47) had an associated skull fracture). The prevalence of ICI increased with neurological compromise; however, 12% of children with a GCS=15/ AVPU=alert had ICI. When compared to falls from standing, falls from a person's arms (233 children (mean age 1 year)) had a significant relative OR for a skull fracture/ICI of 6.94 (95% CI 3.54 to 13.6), falls from a building (eg, window or attic) (mean age 3 years) OR 6.84 (95% CI 2.65 to 17.6) and from an infant or child product (mean age 21 months) OR 2.75 (95% CI 1.36 to 5.65). **Conclusions** Most HIs from a fall in these children admitted to hospital were minor. Infants, dropped from a carer's arms, those who fell from infant products, a window, wall or from an attic had the greatest chance of ICI or skull fracture. These data inform prevention and the assessment of the likelihood of serious injury when the object fallen from is known.





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INTRODUCTION

Head injury (HI) from a fall is a leading cause of hospital attendance for young children.¹ The majority of these head injuries are minor; however, a small proportion result in intracranial injury (ICI) to the brain or surrounding extra-axial structures. In 2011, Hospital Episode Statistics recorded 50 719 finished hospital consultations for children age 0-14 who fell (International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision W00-W19).² Little is known about the characteristics of falls that have the potential to cause skull fractures or ICI and potential neuropsychological morbidity.²

The estimated proportion of childhood HIs caused by falls varies from 19%⁴ to 89%⁵ with many studies reporting figures between 50% and 70%.⁶⁻⁸ The prevalence decreases with age, with infants (<12 months of age) and very young children at the greatest risk.⁶ ⁹ However, studies are based upon small sample sizes and broad age ranges.

What is already known on this topic?

- Falls are a common mechanism in young ► children admitted to hospital with head injury.
- Most are minor head injuries but can be ► associated with morbidity from post-concussion syndrome.
- The likelihood of cranial or intracranial damage from different fall mechanisms is ill defined.

What this study adds?

- Abnormal CT scans were identified in 5.9% of ► the children who had sustained head injury from a fall.
- ► The highest risk mechanism of fall for acquiring skull fracture or intracranial injury is an infant who is dropped from a carer's arms.
- These data have the potential to inform prevention to reduce the number of infants and young children who sustain head injuries from falls.

They often report falls from the 'same level' or from 'an estimated height'. Some studies with a biomechanical focus do highlight the objects and furniture types involved in falls;¹⁰ ¹¹ however, small sample sizes prevent generalisation of these results.

There are two schools of thought about the significance of short falls:¹² first, they rarely cause fatal HI¹³ and second, they have the potential to do so.¹⁴

The Confidential Enquiry into Head Injury in Childhood was the principal project within the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquires (CMACE) in 2009. Data were collected from 90% of hospitals in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands on children treated or observed in **o** hospital inpatient areas. This large dataset provided the opportunity to describe the object fallen from, the neurophysiological status and CT scan findings in children younger than 6 years.

METHODS

All cases described as falls were extracted from the CMACE dataset of children younger than 6 years of age, admitted to hospital or who died at the scene or en route to hospital as a direct result of an HI between September 2009 and February 2010. Children admitted because of superficial or facial

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injuries were not included in the original dataset. Cases with insufficient data regarding the mechanism of injury, readmissions and those that were referred to social services for suspected physical abuse where there was uncertainty around the mechanism of injury were excluded. Cases that met clinical guidelines for a CT scan¹⁵ but where a CT scan had not been done were also excluded as we could not confirm the outcome.

Data were collected for this cross-sectional study monthly in each hospital using predefined proformas (see online supplementary file 1) by a designated local coordinator. Data from completed forms were entered onto a secure database and duplicate cases were excluded.

The child was classed as a hospital admission if they were admitted to a hospital inpatient setting for 4 h or more. The descriptions of falls were recoded using The European Union Injury Database Coding Manual.¹⁶ Incident place was coded according to home/private address, school/nursery, public highway/road/street/motorway other, unknown. Mechanism of injury: Falls were recoded as 'Falls from standing or sitting' and 'Falls from a height' and subcategorised according to falls from building, building component or related fitting, from person's arms, downstairs, from furniture, infant or child product or other. Object fallen from were initially categorised in accordance with the coding manual. These categories were then condensed down into six larger categories (see online supplementary file 2) with relevant subdivisions.

The Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) recorded from the emergency department was the primary indicator of neurological status. When missing, the alert, voice, pain, unresponsive (AVPU) scores¹⁷ were used. These data were combined to create four categories-'GCS=15/alert,' 'GCS=13-14' 'GCS=9-12/ response to voice' and 'GCS ≤8/ response to pain or unresponsive'—as proposed by Mackay et al.¹⁸ (While Mackay et al refer to children older than 5 years, this was the best equivalence study available.) CT scan results were categorised as normal (no abnormality reported on CT scan), isolated skull fracture or intracranial injury (ICI) (injury to the brain or extra-axial structures) with or without skull fracture. Structural anomalies congenital defects and soft tissue injuries were combined with CT normal group. Two coders independently reviewed CT scan results and agreed the categorisation of injury mechanism and objects fallen from.

HIs were classified as 'minor' if a CT scan was performed with a 'normal' result or no CT was performed but the GCS/ AVPU score was GCS=15/alert.

Analysis of the dataset

A descriptive analysis used proportions with 95% CIs. The logistic regression analysis (IBM SPSS V.20) was used to calculate the relative odds of sustaining a skull fracture or ICI from each mechanism to a fall from sitting or standing. A general model, including possible influencing covariates, namely mechanism of injury gender, age in years, was applied to the data and by a stepwise approach the statistically non-significant factors were removed from the model. To compare the accuracy of fit of the models, the software calculated fit statistics were used: (model) χ^2 , -2 log-likelihood, overall percentage—the overall per cent of cases that are correctly predicted by the model (IBM SPSS V.20). The best-fitting logistic model results are expressed as ORs, with 95% CIs.

RESULTS

The original dataset included 5700 children (ages of 0-15). Of these, 60% (3423) were <6 years, 76.9% (2634) of whom

presented following a fall. In total, 153 cases referred to social services with suspected physical abuse, 11 cases that met criteria for a CT but CT scan was not done and 695 cases with insufficient data regarding the mechanism of injury were excluded. This latter group of cases had the same distribution of age, gender, GCS/AVPU and abnormal CT scan results as the remaining 1775 cases available for analysis (figure 1).

The median age of the children was 18 months (IQR 30 months). There was an inverse relationship between age and number of children who sustained HI from a fall (table 1). A slightly greater proportion of HIs occurred in boys (54.7%, n=971) than in girls.

Iniury severity

A total of 1659 children had a GCS (1245) or an AVPU (414) recorded. Of the total population, 87% (1552/1775) had a GCS of 15 or were alert on AVPU. The length of stay was recorded for 1735 children. The median number of nights admitted was 1 (1005 children), 100 children were admitted for 2-4 nights, 8 for 5–7 days and 4 for more than a week, 616 were observed and sent home the same day. Two children died from their iniuries.

luding CT scan was performed in 19.3% (342). A significantly greater proportion of children aged 3-5 years (26.6% (95% CI 22.9% to 30.6%)) than children younger than 3 years (16.5%) (95% CI 14.5% to 18.6%)) had a CT scan (table 2). Overall 68% (233/342) had a normal CT, 16.9% (58) had isolated skull fractures, 13.7% (47) had ICI (49% (23) of whom had an associated skull fracture), and 4 were reported as abnormal but details were not given (tables 1 and 2). Children younger than a year had the greatest proportion of abnormal CT scans of 58% (58/100), 74.1% (43/58) of which were in children younger than 6 months of age. While the proportion of children with ICI increased with neurological compromise reflected by increased GCS/AVPU, ICI was identified in 12% (31/260) of children with a GCS=15/AVPU=alert who had a CT scan (table 2).

iining, Also, 62 of the 81 skull fractures were simple linear fractures (41 parietal/temporal, 6 frontal, 11 occipital, 2 basal, 2 location not recorded), 13 were complex fractures (5 bilateral and 7 depressed fractures, 1 multiple). In six cases, neither the site nor type was specified. There was no difference between the distribution of fracture type or site between the children who had coexisting ICI. Twenty-three children had fractures with ICI, in 22 there were underlying extra-axial haemorrhage, contusions



Figure 1 Age of 1775 children who were admitted to hospital after a head injury from a fall.

Table 1	Number and	proportion of	children	who had	a CT	scan and	CT	findings by	/ age
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Children age (years)	No. children who had CT scan	Minor HI*	Isolated skull fracture	ICI with/without skull fracture	CT scan stated as abnormal but no results given	Total
<1	100	545	36	20	2	603
	16.4%	90.4%	6.0%	3.3%	0.3%	34%
1	69	408	14	5†	1	429†
	16.1%	95.1%	3.3%	1.2%	0.2%	24.2%
2	42	239	3	7	1	250
	16.8%	95.6%	1.2%	2.8%	0.4%	14.1%%
3	50	192	2	5	0	199
	25.1%	96.5%	1.0%	2.5%	0.0%	11.2%
4	41	145	3	3	1	152
	27.0%	95.4%	2.0%	2.0%	0.7%	8.6%
5	40	135	0	7	0	142
	28.2%	95.1%	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%	8.0%
Total	342	1664	58	47	4	1775
	19.3%	93.7%	3.3%	2.6%	0.3%	100.0%

*Minor head injury defined when a CT scan was performed with a 'normal' result or no CT was performed but the GCS/AVPU score was GCS=15/alert.

†Two 1 year olds died, one died before having a CT scan and one had ICI on CT.

AVPU, alert, voice, pain, unresponsive; GCS, Glasgow Coma Score; HI, head injury; ICI, intracranial injury.

were described in 2 cases and cerebral oedema in 1. In the 24 children with ICI but no skull fractures, the ICI included contusions (5), intracranial haemorrhage (3), extra-axial haemorrhage (15) and cerebral oedema (1).

Characteristics of the causal event

The majority (74.1% (1316/1775)) of HIs occurred in the home. Falling from a height accounted for 74.5% (1322/1775). Children who fell from a height were more likely to sustain skull fractures or ICI than those who fell from standing (7.4% (98/1322) vs 2.7% (12/453)). The calculated relative OR of this relationship was 2.9 (95% CI 1.6 to 5.4). There was a relationship between the age of the children and the mechanism of injury; young babies fell or were dropped from a carer's arms, toddlers who fell down the stairs or from furniture had a median of 18 months, 1 year olds fell from an infant product while the older children fell from standing or from walls, windows, shopping trolleys, and so on (table 3).

The three mechanisms with the greatest proportions of abnormal CT were falls from (1) a person's arms, (2) building or building component (11 from a wall, 19 from window, 6 from attic, 6 balcony/banister/gallery/stage, 6 from bathroom furnishings or gate, 3 from patio) and (3) an infant or child product.

Table 2 CT outcome for 3/12 children according to GCS////PU score

Stepwise elimination of co-covariates in the logistic regression model resulted in only the mechanism of injury remaining in the model. The relative ORs for sustaining a skull fracture or ICI were significantly greater than a fall from standing or sitting, namely 6.94 (95% CI 3.54 to 13.6), 6.84 (95% CI 2.65 to 17.6) and 2.75 (95% CI 1.36 to 5.65), respectively (table 3). A child who fell from a carer's arms down the stairs had a greater chance (23.3% (95% CI 13.2% to 37.8%) (10/43)) of sustaining a skull fracture or ICI compared with those who were dropped on to the floor (14.2% (95% CI 10% to 19.9%) (27/190)).

Figure 2 outlines the reported objects that 1775 children had fallen from. With the exception of falls from a carer's arms, from a building or an infant child product, there were no significant statistical differences in the proportion of abnormal CT findings among any of the other categories.

DISCUSSION

The greatest proportion of the children who were admitted to hospital following an HI from a fall were younger than 1 year. One-fifth of the children had a CT scan to confirm or exclude ICI. One-third of which had an abnormality reported, equivalent to 5.9% of the overall population studied. The most

	CT: normal	Isolated skull fracture	ICI with/without skull fracture	CT scan stated to be abnormal but no results given	Tota
GCS 1 5/AVPU=A	180 69.2%	45 17.3%	31 11.9%	4 1.5%	260
GCS 13–14	29 69.0%	7 16.7%	6 14.3%	0 0.0%	42
GCS 9–12/AVPU=V	10 66.7%	1 6.7%	4 26.7%	0 0.0%	15
GCS 8 or less/AVPU P or U	4 40.0%	1 10.0%	5 50.0%	0 0.0%	10
Missing	10 66.7%	4 26.7%	1 6.7%	0 0.0%	15
Total	233 68.1%	58 17.0%	47 13.7%	4 1.2%	342

AVPU, alert, voice, pain, unresponsive; GCS, Glasgow Coma Score; ICI, intracranial injury.

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 Table 3
 CT outcome by mechanism with relative 95% CI of sustaining a skull fracture or intracranial injury (ICI) from each mechanism compared with a fall from sitting or standing

Mechanism	Median age years (IQR)	CT: normal	CT: skull fracture	CT: ICI with/ without skull fracture	CT: abnormal scan/died	Total	Odds ratios of skull fracture or ICI to fall from standing/sitting	p Value
Persons arms	0.3 (1.1)	196 (84.1%)	21 (9%)	15 (6.4%)	1 (0.4%)	233	6.94 (3.54 to 13.6)	<0.001
Building, building component or related fitting	3.2 (2.6)	43 (84.3%)	2 (3.9%)	5 (9.8%)	1 (2%)	51	6.84 (2.65 to 17.6)	<0.001
Other	3.3 (2.5)	52 (92.9%)	2 (3.6%)	1 (1.8%)	1 (1.8%)	56	2.83 (0.89 to 9.09)	0.081
Infant or child product	0.9 (2.8)	334 (93%)	17 (4.7%)	8 (2.2%)	0	359	2.75 (1.36 to 5.56)	0.005
Furniture	1.5 (1.8)	388 (95.8%)	8 (2%)	7 (1.7%)	2 (0.5%)	405	1.61 (0.76 to 3.41)	0.214
Stairs	1.5 (1.3)	211 (96.8%)	2 (0.9%)	5 (2.3%)	0	218	1.22 (0.47 to 3.14)	0.682
Standing/sitting	2.4 (2.8)	441 (97.4%)	6 (1.3%)	6 (1.3%)	0	453		
Total		1665 (93.8%)	58 (3.3%)	47 (2.6%)	5 (0.3%)	1775		

Infant product included cot, Moses basket, high chair or pram.

Building or building component included wall, window attic, balcony/banister/gallery/stage, bathroom furnishings, gate, patio.

common abnormal finding was a skull fracture, most commonly a simple linear parietal fracture, a proportion (1 in 4) of these had an underlying extra-axial haemorrhage. Few children sustained an ICI without skull fracture. These findings are similar to those of Dietrich *et al*¹⁹ and to a recent publication by Thomas *et al*²⁰ for children younger than 2 years old. The latter study identified 'isolated skull fractures' in 19.5% of children who had neuroimaging for head injuries and focal intracranial haemorrhage in 15.4%. Although the study included all mechanisms of injury, 82% of the series were from falls.

The highest rate of abnormal CT scans was evident in infants who fell from a parent's arms, a finding consistent with other studies.⁵ ²¹ ²² The likelihood of an abnormal CT scan was greater for children dropped on the stairs compared with those dropped on to the floor. By contrast, falls down stairs, which were one of the most common reasons for hospital admission, resulted in a low prevalence of skull fracture or ICI.

The strength of this study is the large national dataset and representative sample. The data were limited to hospital admissions and are likely to be biased by injury severity, clinical decisions to admit cases and variation in admission policy and facilities across the UK. While there were clear national HI guidelines in place at the time of the study,¹⁵ adherence to guidelines varied and results could only be based on the CT findings according to the level of investigations undertaken. The study does not include the many children who were assessed in the emergency department and discharged home. Children referred to social services were excluded due to uncertainty about mechanism, some of which may have been genuine falls once child protection investigations were completed, but this information was not available to us. Equally it is possible that the dataset includes unrecognised cases of physical abuse. Data were collected over a 6-month winter period and are likely to have missed the summer peak incidence or seasonal variation in injury type.⁴



Figure 2 Object fallen from for 1775 children admitted to hospital with a head injury from a fall.

Original article

Much of the information processed and coded was written in free text, creating an element of subjectivity when categorising data. The data had been collected from >200 hospitals, and the quality of data entry varied. However, after exclusion of cases with poor data quality, we are confident that the dataset represents a cross section of falls in preschool children who were admitted to hospital. Although the Injury Database manual was used as a coding standard for consistency, the manual is not designed specifically for falls and was thus adapted for the population studied to include some of the emergent categories.

The increased likelihood of a skull fracture or ICI from a fall from height compared with falling from standing height was unsurprising. The height of a fall in this study was estimated in terms of the nature of the item fallen from, and this is frequently all that the clinician has to inform a clinical assessment when assessing the likelihood of cranial or intracranial structural damage.

Estimating a fall height threshold for serious HI is a debated topic.¹⁰ ¹³ ²³ ²⁴ In 1991, Williams described how infants who fell from <10 ft (3 m) were unlikely to sustain serious injuries (intracranial haemorrhages, cerebral oedema, depressed skull fractures and compound or comminuted fractures),²³ while in 2008 Chadwick et al¹³ published a systematic review estimating a mortality rate of <0.48 deaths per one million children in the USA for children involved in short falls of <3 ft (<1 m). In 2012, Ibrahim *et al*¹⁰ acknowledged that falls from a greater height could result in incrementally more serious injury but suggested that there are multiple factors to consider such as the angle of the fall, impact and landing position of the child (all beyond the scope of this study). Although we were unable to make height estimates, our results show a lower proportion of skull fractures or ICI after a fall from standing or from lowheight furniture than from falls from windows and other building components, or from a carer's arms.

Most infant falls are short vertical falls;²² however, being dropped may result in a child being released at an angle causing a non-linear fall and rapid angular deceleration on impact with the ground.²⁵ The biomechanics involved when a child that is dropped down the stairs is complex. We hypothesise that the height of the initial fall before contact with the stairs increases the momentum with which the child continues to tumble down the stairs, increasing the complexity of the fall and the likelihood of sustaining a skull fracture or ICI. The proportion of children who sustain a skull fracture or ICI after falling down the stairs without being dropped was considerably lower (3.4% vs 26.2%). This mechanism has been described as a series of short falls between each individual step.²⁶ There is a culture of anxiety concerning children falling down stairs. A retrospective study estimates that a child under the age of 5 is seen every six minutes for a stair-related fall in US emergency departments.²

This study extends our understanding of HI from falls and the risk of skull fracture or ICI given the age of the child and item fallen from. It identifies the dangers of dropping children while confirming that low height falls, including simple stair falls, rarely cause impaired consciousness, skull fractures or ICI. The findings have the potential to inform HI clinical decision rules about falls that warrant a CT scan. Currently, this varies from a fall of 3 ft or more or five stairs (Canadian Assessment of Tomography for Childhood Head Injury),²⁸ falls that exceed 0.9 m for children younger than 2 years or >1.5 m (5 ft) for older children (Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network)¹ to falls that exceed 3 m (Children's Head Injury Algorithm for the Prediction of Important Clinical Events).²⁹ decisions about the plausibility of injury explanations when assessing infants and young children with suspected physical abuse. Prevention initiatives should stress the importance of carrying children safely, particularly while going up and downstairs.

Author affiliations

 $^1 \mathrm{Institute}$ of Primary Care and Public Health, Cardiff School of Medicine, Cardiff, Wales, UK

- ²Placements Manager at Kids Company, London, UK
- ³Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, University of Birmingham

⁴Department of Neurosurgery, Bristol Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK ⁵Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, Southampton Childrens Hospital, Southampton, UK ⁶National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre based at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Imperial College London ⁷Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Leeds Institute of Genetics, Health and Therapeutics (LIGHT), University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

Twitter Follow Richard Edwards at @paedneurosurg

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Collaborators Additional members of the original CMACE Head Injury External advisory group: Professor Robert Tasker, Paediatrics, University of Cambridge, Dr Rosemary Arthur Consultant Paediatric Radiologist Leeds (British Society Paediatric Radiology), Dr Fiona Lecky: Research Director TARN, Senior Lecturer, Honorary Consultant Emergency Medicine Manchester, Dr Fiona Moore: Medical Director London Ambulance Service, Dr Kevin Moore: Director PICU Birmingham Children's Hospital. Lisa Turan: Chief Executive Child Brain Injury Trust, Girkamal Virdi: Assistant Head of Clinical and Audit Research London Ambulance Service, Mark Woolcock: Emergency Medical Practitioner and Emergency Specialist Service South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

Contributors PB undertook this project as an intercalated medical student when completing his BSc in Public Health. LT undertook and advised upon the statistical analysis. RH designed the original data collection tools, supervised data collection, cleaning and data entry of the data collected within the original confidential enquiry of head injury (CMACE). JH gave supervisory advice to PB, advised on biomechanics and participated in study design and analysis. GP was the director of the CMACE confidential enquiry and supervised the design and running of the project and has been involved in editing his manuscript. RJE, PH, IM and RCP were all members of the project Independent Advisory Board and gave advice and editorial supervision at regular intervals during the study analysis. AMK supervised the student project, coordinated the study writing, checked and edited the manuscript, agreed the concept and methodology of this particular analysis.

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Competing interests IM is supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre based at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Imperial College London.

Patient consent CMACE obtained Section 251 approval to gather patient information without consent.

Ethics approval The project was approved by the Central Manchester Research Ethics Committee. R&D or clinical governance approvals were obtained from all participating hospitals. These approvals were renewed when the project was transferred to Cardiff University for analysis (Ref 09/H1008/74) July 2012.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Data sharing statement The data that informs this study is an anonymised national dataset and is available upon request for individuals who have a worthy cause to analyse as long as the rationale fits with the ethical approval and Section 251 requirements. We would consult with such bodies as necessary.

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Supplementary file 1. Classification of objects fallen from

Furniture/furnishing	Object fallen from
Building, building	1. Wall, window, attic
component, or related	Other building component or related
fitting	fitting
Infant or child product	1. Changing table/changing mat on table
	2. Pram/buggy/pushchair
	3. Cot, moses basket, carry chair, carseat
	Playground Equipment
	5. High chair, booster chair
	Bike, scooter and skateboard
	Other infant or child product
Stairs*	1. Stairs
Persons arms	 Parent's arms to ground
	Child's arms to ground
	3. Parent's arms down stairs
Other	1. Shopping trolley
	Other specified object

* Due to the large number of cases, stairs were removed from the group 'Building, building component, or related fitting' and made into a separate category



Please complete this form for a child or young person <u>up to</u> 15 years old (14 yrs + 365 days) who as a result of a head injury* or a head injury as part of a pattern of injuries meets ONE of the following criteria between <u>1st SEPTEMBER 2009 and 28th FEBRUARY 2010 inclusive:</u>

Please tick type of case: (Select one option only)

- Seen in your Emergency Department and <u>admitted</u>* to your hospital for secondary or tertiary care OR
- Seen in your Emergency Department but <u>transferred for admission</u>* to secondary or tertiary care at another hospital (within or out of your trust) OR
- Seen in your Emergency Department but <u>died *before* admission* or transfer</u>* to secondary care OR
- Died at the scene or died between the scene and attendance at the first hospital.

Instructions for completing and returning the notification form

- 1. Certain sections may not be applicable to all children. Please read the guidance manual before completing.
- 2. Please complete the form using the information available in the child's notes. Complete all dates in the format DD/MM/YY and times using the 24hr clock *e.g. 18:50*.
- 3. Please keep a copy of this form for your records. Return hardcopies of completed forms to your local CMACE regional office. See back of form for local contact details.
- 4. If you have any queries about completing or returning this form please contact your CMACE regional office.

Date form completed:

Date form returned:

D D/M M/Y Y

DETAILS OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM	
Name:	Trust:
Job title/Role:	Telephone:
Unit:	Email:
Hospital:	

* Head injury:	Examples of head injuries to include or exclude can be found on the back of this form.
* Admission:	Hospital admission is defined as occurring when the patient is in receipt of treatment or observation in an
	inpatient area. This includes short term assessment units associated with wards or emergency departments,
	short stay units, general or specialist wards, PICUs, Neurosurgical unit, or other inpatient unit. This may only
	be for a matter of hours beyond the first four hours from arrival at hospital.
* Transfer:	Refers to the transport of a patient by ambulance (land or air) from one hospital to another hospital facility.
	Also referred to as an 'inter-hospital transfer' between two hospitals either within or out of the same trust.

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Is thi	s the first hospital the child attended following the	ed following the			
incia	ent?	ightarrow If no, hospital child transferred from			
SEC	TION 1: DETAILS OF CHILD	(Affix patient label if preferre	ed)		
1.1	Hospital Number				
1.2	NHS Number/Healthcare Number				
1.3	Surname/family name				
1.4	First name				
1.5	Sex	Male Female	Not known		
1.6	Date of birth and/or estimated age If no full date of birth is known enter month and year. If no full or short DOB, enter their estimated age.	DD/MM/YY	Not known		
		years months			
1.7	Address of patient's normal residence				
	Postcode of patient's normal residence				
1.8	Ethnic group		Not known		
White	e Mixed: Asian or Asian	British Black or Black British: Othe	er ethnic groups:		
	inglish L White & Black L Indian Dther British Caribbean Rekistani	Caribbean A	.rab Svpsv/ Romanv/ Irish		
	ish White & Black African Bangladesh	ni 🗌 Other Black T	raveller		
	ny other white L White & Asian L Chinese	background C	other ethnic group		
	background background	d			
lf oth	er, please specify				
1.9	Child known to Social Services	Yes No	Not known		
	If answering this question is not indicated as part of the admission pro	ocess and you are unaware of whether the child	is or is not known to		
1.10	Child subject of <i>existing</i> child protection plan	Yes No	Not known		
SEC	TION 2: DETAILS OF INCIDENT				
2.1	Date of incident	DD/MM/YY	Not recorded		
2.2	Time of incident	(24 hr clock)	Not recorded		
2.3	Postcode of incident location		🗌 🗌 Not known		
2.4	If postcode is not known indicate area/first line of address Place of incident		Not known		
	Home/private address Road/ Street/Motorway	Other, specify	Not known		
2.5	Cause of injury				
	Struck by car (i.e. child was pedestrian)	Sport, please specify			
	Motor vehicle accident (not pedestrian)	Other recreational (e.g. skateboard) spec	cify		
	\Box Fall from > 1m or > 5 stairs	Other, please specify			
	Fall < 1m or < 5 stairs	Not known			
2.6	Additional incident details, if known (e.g. Fall from trampoline.	speed, not in age appropriate car seat. etc)			
	Please use the additional space pro	ovided on page 7 if there is not enough room t	to complete your answer		
2.7	Suspicion of Non Accidental Injury (NAI)	Yes No	Not known		
2.8	Seatbelt worn	Yes No	Not known		
2.9	Helmet worn	Yes No	□ Not known □ N/A		

SEC	TION 2: DETAILS OF INCIDENT CO	ontinued			
2.10	Did the child sustain any other injury to other	r area(s) of	\Box Yes \rightarrow Go	to 2.11 \square No \rightarrow Go to	2.12 Not known \rightarrow Go to
	their body? (e.g. bruises, fractures)				2.12
	2.11 If yes, please indicate whether the (If an injury is 'Not recorded' then tick 'N	child sustained a <i>/inor/None'</i>)	any other injur	ies to the following ar	eas
		Major - requir admissio	ing hospital on itself	Minor/Non	e Not Known
â	a. Head				
k	o. Face				
C	c. Neck				
C	d. Chest				
e	e. Abdomen (including pelvic contents)				
f	. Spine				
ę	g. Limbs (excluding pelvic girdle)				
ł	n. Bone pelvis				
i	. Body surface (penetrating)				
j	. Body surface (blunt)				
ł	. Burns				
1	. Other, <i>specify</i>				
	Please use the additional space on page 7 to provi	de additional detail	s on these other	injuries, if information av	railable
2.12	Child experienced a period of loss of conscio (at any time)	ousness	Yes	🗌 No	Not known
2.13	Route of referral to this Emergency Departme	ent			
	999 Ambulance Service			tal referral	
	Minor Injury Unit, (specify)		Telephone	advice – NHS Direct	Not known
	Other hospital, (specify)		GP assess	ment unit	Other (specify)
2 14	Mode of arrival to the first hospital				
2.14			Private/put	olic transport	Other, specify
	$\rightarrow Go \text{ to Section 3} \qquad \rightarrow Go \text{ to Section}$	3	\rightarrow Go to Se	ction 4	
					\rightarrow Go to Section 4
SEC	TION 3: PRE HOSPITAL – AT SCEI	NE/EN ROUT	E		
reco	se complete the following details <u>as fully a</u> rds from the ambulance services. Referrin	<u>as possible</u> from ng to the guidar	m the child's nce manual w	notes. This will help vill help you.	o us to be able to obtain
3.1	Name of Ambulance Service involved				Not recorded
3.2	Ambulance notes in the child's hospital reco	rds	Yes	No No	
3.3	Patient Report Form number				Not known
3.4	Incident number/CAD number (or equivalent))			Not known
3.5	On arrival of emergency services at the scen found to be:	e child was	$\square \text{ Alive } \rightarrow 0$ $\square \text{ Dead } \rightarrow 0$	Continue completing this so Go to Section 6	ection
3.6	Child's neurological status at scene Document the worst score before intubation/interve	ention. If no intubati	on/intervention c	occurred. document the v	vorst score.
3.6.1	Glasgow Coma Scale Score	corded	3.6.2 AVPI	Score	Not recorded
•••••					
	Eye opening Verbal response		Alert	and to Voice	
	Motor response		Respo	ond to P ain	
	TOTAL (out of 15)		Unres	ponsive	
	Time GCS recorded:		Time A	VPU recorded:	
	HH: MM (24 hr clock)	ecorded	HH	(24 hr clock)	Not recorded
3.7	Child intubated at scene/en-route		Yes	No	Not known
3.8	Other mechanical airway/breathing assistance employed at scene/en-route (e.g. Bagging/BVI	ce M)	Yes	🗌 No	Not known

SEC	TION 4: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT		
4.1	Name of Hospital		
4.2	Date of arrival at the Emergency Department	DD/MM/YY	Not recorded
4.3	Time of arrival at the Emergency Department	(24 hr clock)	Not recorded
Prev	ious attendance/s		
4.4	Was this current visit a re-attendance in relation to a previous injury?	$\square \text{ Yes } \rightarrow \text{Go to } 4.4.1 \square \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Go to } 4.5$	Not known $\rightarrow Go to$ 4.5
	(that occurred within 72 hours of this attendance)		_
	4.4.1 Name of hospital first attended		Not known
	4.4.2 Date attended that hospital	DD/MM/YY	Not recorded
	4.4.3 Time of review at previous attendance	(24 hr clock)	Not recorded
	4.4.4 Grade of clinician who discharged child (see codes on page 7)		Not known
	4.4.5 Head CT scan at previous attendance	Yes No	Not known
This	attendance		
4.5	Details of first clinical assessment for this attendance This refers to the first <u>clinical</u> assessment (i.e. not included ass	(please refer to codes on page 7) sessment by the triage nurse)	
	4.5.1 Grade of clinician (see codes on page 7)		Not recorded
	4.5.2 Speciality of clinician (see codes on page 7)		Not recorded
	4.5.3 Time of first <i>clinical</i> assessment (<i>i.e. not assessment by the triage nurse</i>)	(24 hr clock)	Not recorded
4.6	Following first clinical assessment (i.e. not assessment b	y triage nurse) was the child referred for conside	ration by:
	4.6.1 A more senior member of medical team		Not known
	4.6.2 Another speciality	☐ □ Yes □ No	 Not known
4.7	Child's neurological status in the Emergency Departme Document the worst score before intubation/intervention in the	ent Emergency Department. If no intubation/intervention	occurred in the
4.7.1	Glasgow Coma Scale Score Not recorded	4.7.2 AVPU Score	Not recorded
	Eve opening	Alert	
	Verbal response	Respond to Voice	
	Motor response	Respond to P ain	
	Time GCS recorded:	Time AVPU recorded:	
	HH:MM (24 br clock)	HH:MM (24 br clock)	Not recorded
4.8	Child intubated in the Emergency Department		Not known
IMA	GING (At any time follow	wing attendance)	
4.0	Head CT seen performed	$\square \text{ Yes} \rightarrow \text{Go to } 4.8.1 \square \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Go to } 4.8.4$	\square Not known \rightarrow Go to
4.0	nead o'r scan performed		4.9
	4.8.1 Date first head CT scan performed		Not recorded
	4.8.2 Time first head CT scan performed	HH:MM (24 hr clock)	Not recorded
	4.8.3 Was the first head CT scan reported as normal on provisional report?	$\square \text{ Yes} \rightarrow \text{Go to 4.9} \qquad \square \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Specify} \\ abnormality:$	$\square \text{ Not known} \rightarrow \text{Go to} \\ 4.9$
	4.8.4 If no head CT performed, please indicate reason/re	easons why: (tick all that apply)	
	CT scan already done at first hospital	Child not stable Other, please spe	ecify
	Not considered to be clinically indicated	🗌 No CT available 🛛 🗌 Not known	

IMA	GING continued (At any time foll	owing attendance)		
4.9	Complete cervical spine CT performed	$\Box \text{ Yes} \rightarrow \text{Go to } 4.9$	9.1. \square No \rightarrow Go to 4.9.2	Not known \rightarrow Go to 4.10
	4.9.1 Was the first spine CT scan reported as normal provisional report?	on \square Yes \rightarrow Go to 4.1	$\begin{array}{c c} 10 & \square & No \to Specify \\ & abnormality: \end{array}$	$\square \text{ Not known} \rightarrow Go \text{ to} \\ 4.10$
	4.9.2 If no spine CT scan performed please indicate re	eason/reasons why: (tick al	ll that apply)	
	 CT scan already done at first hospital Not considered to be clinically indicated 	Child not stable	Other, please spece Not known	cify
4.10	Was the child 'admitted' to your hospital? (see cover for definition of admission)	$\Box \text{ Yes} \rightarrow \text{Go to 5.1}$	\Box No \rightarrow Go to	4.10.1
	4.10.1 If no, where did child go following discharg	e from the Emergency Dep	partment	
	Transferred to another hospital \rightarrow Go to 6.2Deceased \rightarrow Go to 6.4Other, please specify \rightarrow Go to 6.1			
SEC	TION 5: ADMISSION			
5.1	Area child <u>first</u> admitted to:			
	 General children's ward Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Paediatric Neurosurgical unit Paediatric High Dependency Unit (PHDU) Specialist children's ward, Specify 	General/Adult ICU Adult Neurosurgical uni Adult High Dependency Other, <i>specify</i>	it / Unit (HDU) -	 Theatre Short stay Unit Observation unit Not known
5.2	Date admitted to area		YY	Not recorded
5.3	Time admitted to area		24 hr clock)	Not recorded
5.4	Designated lead team for this admission (If joint care General Paediatrics Paediatric Emergency Medicine Paediatric Intensive Care Paediatric Neurosurgery Paediatric Surgery Paediatric Surgery	e tick all that apply) General/Adult Emergen General/Adult Intensive Adult Neurosurgery General/Adult Surgery Orthopaedic Surgery	ncy Medicine 9 Care	Not known Other, specify
5.5	Indication for admission (Please tick	k all that apply)		
	 Severity of the head injury Severity of other injuries Severity of mechanism of injury Continuing worrying signs in relation to head injury Abnormality identified on CT scan Base of skull fracture Meningism CSF leak Drug or Alcohol intoxication 	 Recovery from GA or set Child fulfils criteria for C the appropriate period Not sufficiently coopera Admitted for GA to have Shock Suspected Non Accider Other, <i>please specify</i> (etc.) 	edation used for CT scan CT scanning but this canno ative to allow scanning e a CT scan ntal Injury (NAI) e.g. not related to head injur	ot be done within ry, gastroenteritis)
5.6	Consultant paediatrician involved in care of child (i.e. Discussed with at time of care delivered)	🗌 Yes 🛛 [No	Not known
5.7	Neurosurgeon involved in care of child (This includes liaison over telephone, or other means)	Yes [No	Not known
5.8	Specialist in Child Protection with level 3 training or above involved (i.e. Discussed with at time of care deliver	ed) 🗌 Yes [No	Not known
5.9	Child Protection referral made to external body (e.g. Social Services or Police)	Yes [No	Not known
5.10	Skeletal survey undertaken (i.e. as part of a child protection assessment)	Yes [No	Not known
5.11	Review by ophthalmology undertaken (i.e. as part of a child protection assessment)	Yes [No	Not known

SECTION 5: ADMISSION continued

5.12 IN ADDITION to the first area of admission, was the child at any time during the first 72 hours post injury admitted to any

of the following areas?

Area	Yes	No	Date admitted	Time admitted (24 hr clock)	Date discharged	Time discharged (24 hr clock)
a. PICU			DD/MM/YY	HHMM	DD/MM/YY	HHMM
b. PHDU			DD/MM/YY	HHMM	DD/MM/YY	HHMM
c. General ICU			DD/MM/YY	H H M M	DD/MM/YY	H H M M
d. General HDU			DD/MM/YY	H H M M	DD/MM/YY	H H M M
e. Neurosurgical unit			DD/MM/YY	H H M M	DD/MM/YY	HHMM
f. Ward			DD/MM/YY	H H M M	DD/MM/YY	HHMM
g. Theatre			DD/MM/YY	H H M M	DD/MM/YY	H H M M
h. Other, specify			DD/MM/YY	H H M M	DD/MM/YY	HHMM
CTION 6: CHILD'S OUTCOME - Complete at <u>whichever occurs first</u> : at transfer, at death in hospital, or at the end of the first 72 hours post injury.						
Please indicate the sta (i.e. at transfer, at death	atus o in hosp	r loca oital, o	ntion of the child at whic r at the end of the first 72 h	hever occurs first ours post injury)		
$\Box \text{ Transferred } \rightarrow \text{Go to}$	6.2		F	Paediatric Intensiv	e Care Unit (PICU)	Adult/Ger

	Discha Decea Gener Specia	arged \rightarrow Go to 6.3 ased \rightarrow Go to 6.4 ral children's ward alist children's ward, Specify	☐ Pa ☐ Pa ☐ Ge ☐ Ad	ediatric High Dependency Unit (PHDU) ediatric Neurosurgical unit eneral/Adult ICU ult Neurosurgical unit	HDU Not known Other, <i>specify</i>
6.2	Transfei	rred			
	6.2.1	Was this a transfer or retrieval?		Transfer Retrieval	Not known
	6.2.2	Name of hospital and trust child transferred	d <u>to</u>	(Hospital)	
				(Trust)	
	6.2.3	Date and time first <u>referral</u> made for transfe	er	DD/MM/YY HH:MM (24 hr clock)	Not recorded
	6.2.4	First referral request for transfer accepted		Yes No	
	6.2.5	Date and time <u>departure</u> for transfer		DD/MM/YY HH:MM (24 hr clock)	Not recorded
	6.2.6	Reason for transfer	(please	e tick all that apply)	
	☐ No p ☐ No I ☐ No F ☐ No g	paediatric facilities CU facilities in hospital PICU bed available in hospital general ICU bed available in hospital	☐ Ac ☐ Pa ☐ Re ☐ Otl	cess to paediatric neuroscience facilities ediatric surgery ceiving hospital close to child's home her, <i>please specify</i>	 Not recorded Not known
	6.2.7	Means of transfer			
	Spe Loca Para Amb 6.2.8 Adde	cialist PICU transport team al team amedic Ambulance bulance (Non paramedic) ditional transfer information (e.g. reason for de	☐ Pri ☐ Otl ☐ He ☐ Otl	vate/public transport her land, <i>please specify</i> licopter (Paramedic/medic) her airborne, <i>please specify</i>	 Not recorded Not known
		, .	• •		

SECTION 6: CHILD'S OUTCOME continued					
6.3	6.3 Discharged				
	6.3.1	Place child discharged to	Home Other, <i>specify</i>	Rehab centre	
	6.3.2	Date of discharge	DDMMYYY	Not recorded	
	6.3.3	Time of discharge	(24 hr clock)	Not recorded	
	6.3.4	Diagnosis on discharge			
6.4	Death	(if a diagnosis of brain stem death is made	then the date and time of this diagnosis equals the date and time	e of death)	
	6.4.1	Date of death		Not recorded	
	6.4.2	Time of death	(24 hr clock)	Not recorded	
	6.4.3	Place of death			
	Gen Paeu Paeu Paeu Speu	eral children's ward diatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) diatric Neurosurgical unit diatric High Dependency Unit (PHDU) cialist children's ward, s <i>pecify</i>	General/Adult ICU Adult Neurosurgical unit Adult High Dependency Unit (HDU) Emergency Department Other, <i>specify</i>	 Theatre Short stay Unit Observation unit Home Not known 	
	6.4.4	Death certificate issued	🗌 Yes 🔄 No	Not known	
	6.4.5	Coroner's referral made	Yes No	Not known	
	6.4.6	Cause of death (as stated on death certi	ificate. If no certificate issued state cause of death as in notes)		
		For children who died <28 days old 1	For deaths of a child (> 28 days old) 1a.		
		2a	1b		
		2b	1c		
		2c.	2.		
		2d.			
Add	litional	space for further information	(please indicate question number you are referring to)		
PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM AND KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS BEFORE RETURNING TO YOUR CMACE REGIONAL OFFICE					
Spe	ciality 8	Clinician Codes			
	CODE SP	ECIALITY CODE SPECIA	LITY CODE CLINICIAN		

CODE	SPECIALITY	CODE	SPECIALITY	CODE	CLINICIAN
100	General Surgery	302	Endocrinology	CONS	Consultant
110	Trauma & Orthopaediacs	303	Clinical Haematology	SG	Staff Grade
120	Ear Nose Throat (ENT)	400	Neurology	CF	Clinical Fellow
145	Oral & Maxillo Facial Surgery	401	Clinical Neuro-Physiology	AS	Associate Specialist
150	Neurosurgery	420	Paediatrics	ST + 1-8	Single Training e.g. ST4
170	Cardiothoracic Surgery	421	Paediatric Neurology	SpR + year	Specialist Registrar e.g. SpR2
171	Paediatric Surgery	450	Dental Medicine Specialities	FY + year	Foundation year e.g. if year 1, enter FY1
180	Emergency Medicine	460	Medical Opthamology	ENP	Emergency Nurse Practitioner
190	Anaesthetics	600	General Medical Practice	APNP	Advanced Paediatric Nurse Practitioner
192	Critical Care Medicine	601	General Dental Practice	ATNC	Nurse - Advance Trauma Cert
193	Paediatric Intensive Care	810	Radiology	RSCN	Nurse - RSCN
300	General Medicine	823	Haematology	NURS	Nurse - General
301	Gastroenterology	000	Other (Surgical or Medical)	GP	General Practitioner

Inclusion & exclusion criteria

Please include:

- Children up to 15 years old (14 years and 364 days) who between 00:00 on the 1st September 09 and 23:59 on the 28th February 2010 have a brain or skull injury (trauma to the head) as a result of blunt or penetrating trauma or acceleration or deceleration force *(e.g. road traffic accident, fall, shaking) OR* who have experienced a head injury as part of a pattern of injuries or multi trauma AND fulfill the following length of stay criteria:
 - \Rightarrow Admitted to an area of inpatient care (regardless of length of stay)
 - ⇒ Died in the hospital, including the Emergency Department
 - \Rightarrow Transferred to other hospital for specialist care or for an ICU/HDU bed \Rightarrow Died at the scene or en route to the receiving hospital
 - ⇒ Died at the scene or en route to the receiving hospital
 ⇒ Transferred in to your hospital (regardless of length of stay)

Please exclude:

- Children who have experienced primarily superficial or facial injuries which are unlikely to be associated with a brain injury (e.g. isolated or trivial facial (nose, ear, lip etc), scalp or auricular injuries)
- Children who do not meet the above inclusion criteria (i.e. children who do not die that are not admitted; children who have reached their 15th birthday at the time of injury).

Exar	nples of types of head injuries to be INCLUDED	Exar	nples of types of head injuries to be EXCLUDED
S02	Fracture of skull and facial bones, e.g.	S00	Superficial Injuries, e.g.
	Fracture of vault of skull		Superficial injury of scalp
	Fracture of base of skull		Contusion of eyelid and periocular area
	Multiple fractures involving skull and facial bones		Other superficial injuries of eyelid and periocular area
	Fractures of other skull and facial bones		Superficial injury of nose, ear, lip, or oral cavity
S04	Injury of cranial nerves, e.g.	S01	Open wound of head, <i>e.g.</i>
	Injury of optic nerve and pathways		Scalp, eyelid and periocular area, nose, ear, cheek &
	Injury of oculomotor nerve		temporomandibular area, lip & oral cavity.
S06	Intracranial injury, e.g.	S02	Fracture of skull and facial bones, e.g.
	Concussion		Fracture of tooth, mandible, nasal bones, orbital floor, malar &
	Traumatic cerebral oedema		maxillary bones.
	Diffuse brain injury	S03	Dislocation, sprain & strain of joints & ligaments of head,
	Focal brain injury		Dislocation of jaw, septal cartilage of nose, septal cartilage of
	EDH (Extra Dural Haematoma)		nose, or tooth. Sprain and strain of jaw.
	Traumatic subdural/subarachnoid haemorrhage	S04	Injury of cranial nerves, e.g.
	Intracranial injury with prolonged coma		Injury of trochlear nerve, trigeminal nerve, abducent nerve,
			facial nerve
	Other intracranial injuries	S05	Injury of eye and orbit, e.g.
	Intracranial injuries - unspecified		Injury of conjunctiva and corneal abrasion
S07	Crushing injury of head, e.g.		Contusion of eyeball and orbital tissues
	Crushing injury of the face		Ocular laceration and rupture with prolapse
	Crushing injury of the skull		Penetrating wound of orbit, or eyeball
S08	Traumatic amputation of part of head, e.g.		Avulsion of eye
	Traumatic amputations	S08	Traumatic amputation of part of head, e.g.
	Multiple injuries of head		Avulsion of scalp
		1	Traumatic amputation of ear

If you have any queries regarding the inclusion/exclusion criteria, please contact your CMACE regional office.

CMACE East of England Office

Carol Hay, Regional Manager Box 111, Room 414, Clinical School Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road Cambridge, CB2 0SP

T: 01223 330 356 or 351 E: carol.hay@cmace.org.uk

CMACE East Midlands and Yorkshire and The Humber Office Daniel Beever, Administrative Assistant Heeley Suite, Blades Enterprise Centre John Street, Sheffield S2 4SW

T: 0114 292 2492

E: daniel.beever@cmace.org.uk

CMACE London and South East Office

Dave Kimani, Administrative Assistant Lower ground floor, Chiltern Court 188 Baker Street, London NW1 5SD

T: 020 7467 3224 E: dave.

E: dave.kimani@cmace.org.uk

CMACE North East Office (FAO Marjorie Renwick)

C/O CMACE Central Office Lower ground floor, Chiltern Court 188 Baker Street, London NW1 5SD

T: 020 7467 3224

E: headinjury@cmace.org.uk

CMACE Northern Ireland Office Terry Falconer, Project Manager The Health Promotion Agency

18 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast BT2 8HS T: 028 9027 9397

E: terry.falconer@cmace.org.uk

CMACE North West, West Midlands & Wales Office Pamela Norris, Project Midwife Research Floor (5th Floor), St Mary's Hospital Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9WL

T: 0161 7016915

E: pamela.norris@cmace.org.uk

E: jo.coffee@cmace.org.uk

CMACE South West and Wessex Office

Jo Coffee, Regional CMACE Assistant Institute of Child Life & Health, Level D St Michaels Hospital, Southwell Street Bristol, BS2 8EG

T: 0117 928 5141 or 5143

CMACE Central Office

Rachael Davey, Projects Research Assistant Lower ground floor, Chiltern Court 188 Baker Street, London NW1 5SD

T: 020 7467 3224

E: rachael.davey@cmace.org.uk

- OR OR OR
- Definition of '**admission**' can be found on the front of this form
- OR