

## Suggested written discharge advice card for patients aged over 16 years who have sustained a head injury

We think that it is alright for you to leave hospital now. We have checked your symptoms and you seem well on the road to recovery. When you get home it is very unlikely that you will have any further problems. But, if any of the following symptoms do return, we suggest you come back, or get someone to bring you back, to your nearest hospital emergency department as soon as possible:

- unconsciousness, or lack of full consciousness (for example, problems keeping eyes open)
- drowsiness (feeling sleepy) that goes on for longer than 1 hour when you would normally be wide awake
- problems understanding or speaking
- loss of balance or problems walking
- weakness in one or more arms or legs
- problems with your eyesight
- painful headache that won't go away
- vomiting (being sick)
- seizures (also known as convulsions or fits)
- clear fluid coming out of your ear or nose
- bleeding from one or both ears.

### Things you shouldn't worry about

You may feel some other symptoms over the next few days which should disappear in the next 2 weeks. These include a mild headache, feeling sick (without vomiting), dizziness, irritability or bad temper, problems concentrating or problems with your memory, tiredness, lack of appetite or problems sleeping. If you feel very concerned about any of these symptoms in the first few days after discharge, you should go and see your own doctor to talk about them. **If these problems do not go away after 2 weeks, you should go and see your doctor. We would also recommend that you seek a doctor's opinion about your ability to drive a car or motorbike.**

### Things that will help you get better

If you follow this advice you should get better more quickly and it may help any symptoms you have to go away:

- DO NOT stay at home alone for the first 24 hours after leaving hospital.
- DO make sure you stay within easy reach of a telephone and medical help.
- DO have plenty of rest and avoid stressful situations.
- DO NOT take any alcohol or drugs.
- DO NOT take sleeping pills, sedatives or tranquilisers unless they are given by a doctor.

- DO NOT play any contact sport (for example, rugby or football) for at least 3 weeks without talking to your doctor first.
- DO NOT return to your normal school, college or work activity until you feel you have completely recovered.
- DO NOT drive a car, motorbike or bicycle or operate machinery unless you feel you have completely recovered.

Telephone number to call at the hospital:

### **Long-term problems**

Most patients recover quickly from their accident and experience no long-term problems. However, some patients only develop problems after a few weeks or months. If you start to feel that things are not quite right (for example, memory problems, not feeling yourself), then please contact your doctor as soon as possible so that we can check to make sure you are recovering properly.

You can find further support and information from the Headway website:

<https://www.headway.org.uk/home.aspx>

## **Suggested written discharge advice card for carers of children under 16 who have sustained a head injury**

We think that it is alright for your child to leave hospital now. We have checked their symptoms and they seem well on the road to recovery. When you get them home it is very unlikely that they will have any further problems. But, if any of the following symptoms do return, we suggest you bring them back to their nearest hospital emergency department as soon as possible:

- unconsciousness, or lack of full consciousness (for example, problems keeping eyes open)
- drowsiness (feeling sleepy) that goes on for longer than 1 hour when they would normally be wide awake
- difficulty waking the patient up
- problems understanding or speaking
- loss of balance or problems walking
- weakness in one or more arms or legs
- problems with their eyesight
- painful headache that won't go away
- vomiting (being sick)
- seizures (also known as convulsions or fits)
- clear fluid coming out of their ear or nose
- bleeding from one or both ears.

### **Things you shouldn't worry about**

They may feel some other symptoms over the next few days which should disappear in the next 2 weeks. These include a mild headache, feeling sick (without vomiting), dizziness, irritability or bad temper, problems concentrating or problems with their memory, tiredness, lack of appetite or problems sleeping. If you feel very concerned about any of these symptoms in the first few days after discharge, you should bring the patient to their doctor. **If these problems do not go away after 2 weeks, you should bring the patient to see their doctor.**

### **Things that will help the patient get better**

If the patient follows this advice it should help them get better more quickly and it may help any symptoms they have to go away:

- DO have plenty of rest and avoid stressful situations.
- DO NOT take sleeping pills, sedatives or tranquilisers unless they are given by a doctor.
- DO NOT play any contact sport (for example, football) for at least 3 weeks without talking to your doctor first.

### **Things you should do to make sure the patient is OK**

- DO NOT allow them to return to school until you feel they have completely recovered.
- DO NOT leave the patient alone in the home for the first 24 hours after leaving hospital.

- DO make sure that there is a nearby telephone and that the patient stays within easy reach of medical help.

Telephone number to call at the hospital:

### **Long-term problems**

Most patients recover quickly from their accident and experience no long-term problems. However, some patients only develop problems after a few weeks or months. If you start to feel that things are not quite right for your child (for example, memory problems, not feeling themselves), then please contact their doctor as soon as possible so that we can check to make sure they are recovering properly.

You can find further support and information from the Child Brain Injury Trust:

<http://childbraininjurytrust.org.uk/>

## Suggested written discharge advice card for carers of adults

We think that it is alright for your friend/relative/client to leave hospital now. We have checked their symptoms and they seem well on the road to recovery. When you get them home it is very unlikely that they will have any further problems. But, if any of the following symptoms do return, we suggest you bring them back to their nearest hospital emergency department as soon as possible:

- unconsciousness, or lack of full consciousness (for example, problems keeping eyes open)
- drowsiness (feeling sleepy) that goes on for longer than 1 hour when they would normally be wide awake
- difficulty waking the patient up
- problems understanding or speaking
- loss of balance or problems walking
- weakness in one or more arms or legs
- problems with their eyesight
- painful headache that won't go away
- vomiting (being sick)
- seizures (also known as convulsions or fits)
- clear fluid coming out of their ear or nose
- bleeding from one or both ears.

### Things you shouldn't worry about

They may feel some other symptoms over the next few days which should disappear in the next 2 weeks. These include a mild headache, feeling sick (without vomiting), dizziness, irritability or bad temper, problems concentrating or problems with their memory, tiredness, lack of appetite or problems sleeping. If you feel very concerned about any of these symptoms in the first few days after discharge, you should bring the patient to their doctor to talk about them. **If these problems do not go away after 2 weeks, you should bring the patient to see their doctor. We would also recommend that they seek a doctor's opinion about their ability to drive a car or motorbike.**

### Things that will help the patient get better

If the patient follows this advice it should help them get better more quickly and it may help any symptoms they have to go away:

- DO have plenty of rest and avoid stressful situations.
- DO NOT take any alcohol or drugs.
- DO NOT take sleeping pills, sedatives or tranquilisers unless they are given by a doctor.
- DO NOT play any contact sport (for example, football) for at least 3 weeks without talking to a doctor first.
- DO NOT return to normal college or work activity until you feel you have completely recovered.

- DO NOT drive a car, motorbike or bicycle or operate machinery unless you feel you have completely recovered.

**Things you should do to make sure the patient is OK**

- DO NOT leave the patient alone in the home for the first 24 hours after leaving hospital.
- DO make sure that there is a nearby telephone and that the patient stays within easy reach of medical help.

Telephone number to call at the hospital:

**Long-term problems**

Most patients recover quickly from their accident and experience no long-term problems. However, some patients only develop problems after a few weeks or months. If you start to feel that things are not quite right for your friend/relative/client (for example, memory problems, not feeling themselves), then please contact your doctor as soon as possible so that we can check to make sure they are recovering properly.

You can find further support and information from the Headway website:

<https://www.headway.org.uk/home.aspx>