



Information for Parents and Carers



KIDS is the Kids Intensive Care and Decision Support team. We're an NHS emergency unit which gets critically ill children to specialist hospitals and intensive care units.

If we've been called out, it means we will need to work quickly with the local doctor and nurse team to assess your child's condition, give them immediate intensive support and take them in the ambulance to a specialist paediatric intensive care unit.

The KIDS team will always try to take the time to answer your questions and explain what's going on. This leaflet provides some more background information.

What happens right away?

As soon as the KIDS team arrives, they will want to speak to the doctors and nurses who have been looking after your child, and they'll want to look at your child to assess their condition. After they've agreed what needs to be done, one of the KIDS team will go through with you what is going to happen next.

The KIDS team will then give your child any additional treatment that they need before the journey, and then take them by ambulance to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, often called a 'PICU', which is going to look after your child.

Can I travel with my child?

Usually, yes. KIDS will try to take you with your child to the intensive care unit in the ambulance. If for any reason this isn't possible, they will give you a map, a telephone number and directions to get there yourself. If you do drive, please don't try to follow behind the ambulance - you'll be putting yourself and other road users at risk. If you need any help organising transport, please let your child's nurse know.

What happens in the ambulance?

The team in the ambulance will be giving your child mobile intensive care. They may need to stop the ambulance at any time for this. We will do our best to tell you what we're doing but we'll be focusing on your child, and we may not be able to give explanations until afterwards.

Will it be alright?

The KIDS team save hundreds of children's lives every year. Child medicine has advanced dramatically in just the last few years, and we can now give treatments that were unheard of when you were growing up. By working quickly and with the most modern equipment in the ambulance, we can give your child the best help there is. The KIDS team will talk to you about why your child is ill and what is likely to happen.





More about KIDS

KIDS is hosted by Birmingham Children's Hospital and gives intensive care transport for babies and children to Birmingham Children's Hospital and the University of North Staffordshire. The ambulances are driven by St John Ambulance, a charity working with the NHS. Our staff are among the UK's best mobile intensive care doctors and nurses for children.

General Enquiries:

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Website:

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As part of the NHS, KIDS is always striving to improve, and part of that is research. Research can help us improve the way we work and benefit other families in future. We may ask you for consent for your child to be part of a research project. You don't have to give consent, and it won't affect in any way the high quality care we give you and your child.