

Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders

Hearing Aid Battery Advice

All hearing aids use batteries to power them. These batteries are known as coin batteries. The type of coin batteries used for our hearing aids at UHCW NHS Trust are Zinc air batteries.

Coin cells are batteries specially designed for a variety of small appliances such as hearing aids and are the shape of a coin and come in different sizes.

The zinc air battery uses air outside the battery as a source of power. All new batteries have coloured sticky tabs on them that seal them until you are ready to use them. These are generally orange, blue or brown in colour and ensure the battery remains fresh until they are used. To activate the battery, you simply remove the tab and then insert the battery into your hearing aid.

Hearing aids have lockable battery doors and lockable elbows. At UHCW NHS Trust lockable battery drawers and elbows are given to all children under the age of 4 years and 11 months to prevent the door being opened and the child swallowing the battery or removing the elbow and swallowing it. However, they can be put on hearing aids for any age if required e.g. if there are small children in the family who may try to open it or there are concerns that an older person may try to open it.

When your child is fitted with their hearing aid we will show you how to open the battery door so that you can safely change the battery. When hearing aids are changed or replaced the audiologist will also show you



Patient Information

that the lockable options have been used. If they do not show you please ask to ensure that they have been used.

Please note that there is a rare risk that these batteries can be accidentally swallowed by children and adults, especially when they are being changed. In most cases they pass through the body naturally and do not cause harm. However, in rare cases there is a risk that they can lodge themselves in the food pipe (oesophagus) when swallowed which can cause problems.

Please read the safety advice in this leaflet to reduce the risk of battery ingestion by anyone in the family.

The following health and safety information comes from members of EPBA (European Portable Battery Association) and is believed to be accurate. EPBA is not responsible for the content, accuracy or completeness.

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Practical tips for parents to limit the risks of battery ingestion by children:

- Store all small batteries out of sight and reach of young children.
- When opening a pack which includes multiple button/coin cells, make sure that children cannot access the batteries which remain in the open packs.
- Make certain that the battery compartment of the hearing aid is locked at all times
- Avoid storing small batteries in pillboxes or setting them out with medication. Their shape and size make them easily mistaken for medication.

What to do if you have seen or suspect your child has ingested a button/coin cell:

- In the event of battery ingestion, seek immediate medical attention at a hospital emergency room.

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- Do not let your child eat or drink until an X-ray can determine if a battery is present.
- If you still have the battery packaging or the device containing the battery take this with you to help the doctor identify the battery type and chemistry.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format please contact

02476 966444 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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