

# Care after swallowing a magnet (adults)

Emergency Department

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: January 2025

Next review: January 2028

Leaflet number: 1218 Version: 2

## Introduction

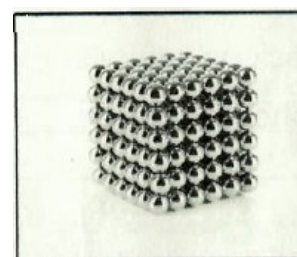
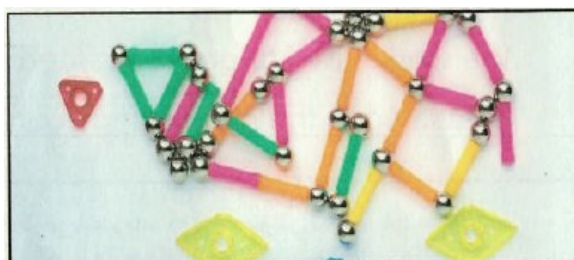
You have been seen today in the Emergency Department as you have swallowed a magnet. Even though it is still inside of you, hospital staff have decided that you are well enough to go home but that you may need a further follow up. This leaflet will give you further information about your care.

## Why are magnets dangerous if swallowed?

Recently, a different type of magnet (also known as neo magnet, bucky balls, magnet balls or Super Strong Rare-Earth Magnets) has gone on sale. They are most often sold as 'adult desk toys, stress relievers or brain development toys'. It is illegal to sell them to children under the age of 14.

They are between 7 and 14 times stronger than traditional magnets and are sometimes called super strong or powerful magnets. They come in a variety of shapes, most often balls or discs. Some examples of what they look like are shown below.

If more than 1 of these is swallowed, or it is swallowed with another metal object, it can lead to damage to the internal organs.



**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## Will I need further tests?

You will need a follow up X-ray 6 to 12 hours after going home. This follow up X-ray is **very** important. We need to make sure that the magnet is moving normally through your bowel.

Until you have this repeat X-ray, remove any external magnetic objects so they are not close to you and avoid clothes with metal buttons or metal buckles. You do not need to check your poo to try to find the magnet.

**Your follow up X-ray is:** Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the Adult Emergency Department where we will be expecting you**

## What should I look out for?

Return to the Emergency Department immediately if you:

- have concerns that further magnets or dangerous objects may have been swallowed
- are being sick (vomiting)
- see blood in your sick (vomit) or poo
- have tummy (abdominal) pain
- have a fever

## Contact details

Adult Emergency Department Tel: 0116 252 0010

## Giving us your feedback

We would love to get some feedback on your visit today, you can access the Adult Emergency Department feedback form from our website:

<https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/thinking-of-choosing-us/patient-experience/>

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)