

Example advice leaflet for person taking a patient home from the ED

IMPORTANT THINGS TO LOOK FOR AFTER A HEAD INJURY

Advice for the person taking a patient home from the Emergency Department

[Name] _____ has suffered a head injury, but does not need to be admitted to a hospital ward. We have examined the patient, and believe that the injury is not serious. Please watch the patient closely over the next day or so as very rarely complications may develop as a result of the injury. Overnight rouse the patient gently every couple of hours, and follow this advice:

1. Do not leave the patient alone at home.
2. Make sure that there is a nearby telephone, and that the patient stays within easy reach of medical help.
3. Symptoms to look out for:
 - Is it difficult to wake the patient up?
 - Is the patient very confused?
 - Does the patient complain of a very severe headache?
 - Has the patient:
 - vomited (been sick)?
 - had a fit (collapsed and felt a bit out of touch afterwards)?
 - passed out suddenly?
 - complained of weakness or numbness in an arm or a leg?
 - complained about not seeing as well as usual?
 - had any watery fluid coming out of their ear or nose?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'Yes' or you are worried about anything else, you should telephone the Emergency Department on:

TEL. NO.:

Or if you are very worried take the patient straight back to the Emergency Department.