

Keeping your child safe from bed entrapment in hospital

Your child's safety is our number one priority

The hospital environment is very different to home, especially the beds and cots.

In hospital, children are more at risk of getting caught or trapped (entrapped) in their bedspace.

This may involve a child's head or limb being caught, trapped, or tangled in bedding or the spaces in or about the cot or bed rails, mattress, or hospital bed frame.



When your child is unwell or injured, the risk of entrapment could be greater because they may not be as strong or alert as usual.

Entrapment can result in serious injury.

How could my child become entrapped?

- Children with impaired or limited mobility, or uncontrolled movements (e.g. movement disorders or seizures) are at increased risk due to their inability to reposition themselves
- As babies and toddlers move around the cot, they can become caught between bedding and cot side rails and may not be able to re-position themselves
- Some medications can make your child drowsy and affect their ability to move around their bed or cot and re-position themselves.



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What you can do to help

- We recommend children under 18 months of age sleep in a cot (discuss this with your nurse)
- Bed rail protectors/bumpers are not to be used in cots
- If your baby is in a cot, keep the side rails up in the highest position even when you are there
- If your child is in a bed, discuss with your nurse the safest use of bedrails
- Keep your baby's cot free from pillows and extra blankets as this can create a risk of suffocation
- Sleeping in bed with your child is not recommended as this can increase their risk of suffocation or entrapment
- Do not make modifications to the bed or cot without talking to nursing staff
- Do not allow your child to play with the bed remote controller
- Tell nursing staff if your child will be left unsupervised, so they can keep a closer eye on them.

Our team will talk to you about the things you can do to keep your child safe during their stay.

Please talk to our team if you have any questions or concerns.

