

# Pyloric Stenosis

## Patient Information

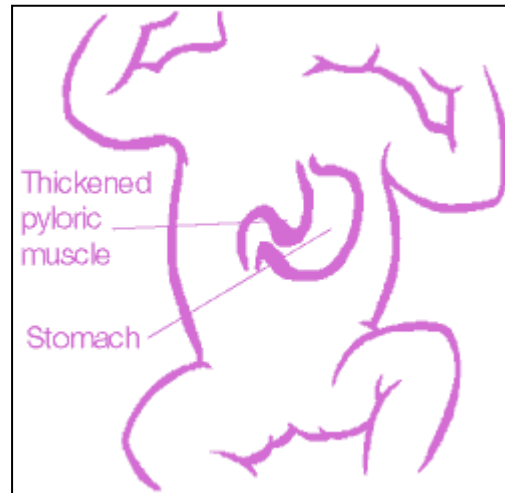
**Child Health Department**

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## What is Pyloric Stenosis?

Pyloric stenosis is a condition that affects babies in the first few weeks of life. It is a narrowing (stenosis) of the pylorus (the passage between the stomach and the small bowel) which obstructs the passage of milk or food into the intestine.



## What are the symptoms of Pyloric Stenosis?

- Vomiting – a baby with pyloric stenosis will usually begin bringing up small amounts of milk feed or dribbling milk from their mouth. Gradually the vomiting becomes worse until the baby cannot keep any milk down. The vomiting may become so forceful that the milk is vomited quite a distance 'like a fountain'. This is called projectile vomiting.
- A hungry unsettled baby – because the baby cannot keep any feed down.
- Poor weight gain or weight loss.
- A danger of becoming dehydrated (lacking in body fluid) because all the feed is being vomited.

## How is Pyloric Stenosis diagnosed?

- Examination of the baby's stomach whilst they are feeding – The thickened pyloric muscle can sometimes be felt as a small, hard bulge on the right side of the baby's stomach. The stomach muscles can sometimes be seen straining as they try to push milk through the pylorus.
- Observing any vomiting.
- An ultrasound scan may be done. An ultrasound is like an x-ray but uses sound waves to produce an image. It is not painful. For this test your baby will be given a drink that can be seen on screen.

## **How is Pyloric Stenosis treated?**

Once a diagnosis of pyloric stenosis has been made we will make arrangements for your baby to be transferred to The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital where your baby will need to have an operation. A small cut is made in the stomach to reach the pylorus. Some of the surrounding muscle fibres are cut to widen the opening allowing food to pass from the stomach to the intestine. Your child's surgeon will explain the procedure in more detail.

Before your baby is transferred to the Children's Hospital your baby will need an intravenous drip to give fluid if he or she has become dehydrated through vomiting. Also your child will need a naso-gastric tube through the nose and into the stomach to empty the stomach of its contents.

## **Please feel free to ask**

If you have any questions or queries which we have not covered in this leaflet the staff will be pleased to answer your questions as clearly and honestly as they can.

Rainbow Ward, Tel. No: 01942 778762 or 778763, Ward open 24 hours.

Please note that we can only give specific advice where we have recently been involved in the care of a child.

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust  
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Wigan Lane  
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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



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## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website:

[www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient\\_information/Leaflets/default.aspx](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/default.aspx)

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in department/ward.

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