



Children's Emergency Department

Te Puaruruhau



Unexplained Injury - Information for whānau and caregivers

We are sorry that your child has been injured. We need to make sure that your child receives the right treatment for their injury. We also need to make sure that your child remains safe

We need to admit your child to Starship Hospital for one or more of the following reasons:

- We are not certain how their injury occurred, or
- Their injury is unusual, or
- The situation would not usually result in this type of injury

Sometimes when a child has one unexplained injury, they may also have other injuries. Starship needs to make sure that we haven't missed other injuries. To do this, hospital staff may need to carry out more tests such as X-Rays, CT scans, and/or blood tests. Hospital staff may also need to talk to other people such as day care, school, kōhanga reo or other whānau members, to help us understand how your child's injury occurred.

This takes time and usually cannot be completed in the Emergency Department. For this reason, we need to admit your child to Starship Hospital. A team called Te Puaruruhau, who are specialists in child protection, will lead this process. They will meet with you, assess your child and explain any further tests that your child may need. Te Puaruruhau will see your child as soon as possible. If your child is admitted overnight, this may not be until the next morning.

Starship always encourages you to stay in hospital with your child. Also, in most situations when a child with unexplained injuries is admitted to Starship Hospital, we arrange for a "Patient Attender" to be with them. This is a staff member who stays with your child to make sure that everyone is safe.

We understand that this assessment can be stressful. There is Cultural and Social support available at Starship Hospital. Please let us know if you would like us to arrange this support. Please also let us know if there is anything else we can do to help you, or if you have any other questions.