

## What to Do

- **If your child shows emergency signs, call 999 immediately.**
- **Go to the nearest Emergency Department as soon as possible if you suspect TSS.**
- **Tell medical staff your child has recently had a burn, and you are worried about TSS.**

*If your local Emergency Department is in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, **please contact the Burns Unit directly** to inform us of your concerns and that you will be attending the hospital.*

## Any Questions – Contact Us



**Phone - Burns Unit**  
01296 315040



### Address

Burns Unit, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 8AL

**DRAFT LEAFLET**  
**Still under review**

# TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME

A Complication of Burns



Buckinghamshire Healthcare  
NHS Trust

London and South East of England Burn Network

## What is Toxic Shock Syndrome?



Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) is an uncommon but serious illness. TSS can happen with **any burn, even a small one**. It is caused by bacteria which release harmful chemicals into the blood.

Children with TSS can get sick really quickly. If your child has TSS, they will need hospital treatment. It is important to recognise and treat TSS as soon as possible. TSS can be deadly if not treated quickly.

## Important Notes



- TSS can develop quickly and needs immediate treatment.
- Trust your instincts and get medical advice if you're worried.
- TSS can happen in very small burns and in clean burns.
- TSS can happen even if your child is already on antibiotics.
- TSS can look like a cold, flu or a tummy bug.
- Some children can get TSS in addition to another illness they had before the burn.
- If your child has a burn and is more unwell, make sure to get medical advice.

## Preventing Infection

- Always keep burn dressings **clean and dry**.
- Return to the A&E/minor injuries/GP if the dressing becomes wet, loose, or dirty.
- Do not remove dressings at home.
- Give pain relief (paracetamol and/or ibuprofen) as per the medication instructions.

## Watch out for Symptoms



### Emergency Signs

**Call 999 immediately if your child:**

- Is difficult to wake or seems unusually drowsy
- Has a blotchy purple rash or mottled skin
- Has difficulty breathing
- Has blue lips

### Most Common Symptoms

- High temperature (38°C or above)
- Widespread rash
- Diarrhoea or loose stools
- Vomiting or feeling sick



### Other Symptoms

- Confusion, being unsettled or 'not like their usual self'
- Eating or drinking less than normal
- Passing less urine (fewer wet nappies)
- Dizziness or feeling faint
- Unusual sleepiness or sluggishness
- Red lips, tongue or eyes