Emergency action

If you think a child has swallowed your medication

• Phone for an ambulance to get the child to the nearest accident and emergency unit as soon as possible
• Take the container of the medication (and any remaining contents) with you so the doctor knows what the child has taken
• Do not try and make the child sick – this may make things worse
• If the child is unconscious lie them on their side to make their breathing easier and to prevent them inhaling vomit if they are sick

Safety checklist

• Do lock all medicines / drugs away from children
• Do teach children not to swallow anything unfamiliar
• Do take old and unwanted medicines to the pharmacy to be disposed of
• Do store and dispose of all sharps and injecting equipment safely
• DO NOT keep methadone in the fridge
• DO NOT store unused methadone/medication
• Do rinse empty bottles with water and swallow the content to obtain the correct dose.

If your child swallows METHADONE, other medication, drugs or alcohol they could be seriously harmed, overdose, or die.

Lock medicines / drugs away where children cannot see or reach them

Derby Drug and Alcohol Service 0300 790 0265
St Andrews House, 201 London Road, Derby, DE1 2TZ
Over half the cases of poisoning in children are caused by them swallowing medication/drugs.

Young children are naturally curious and do not understand danger. You can’t expect children to understand the difference between a brightly coloured pill and a sweet, or between methadone and fizzy pop.

When the pharmacist puts your medication – whether capsules, tablets or liquid – into a bottle, it will be supplied with a child-resistant lid.

These lids make it hard for children to open but they are NOT 100% child-proof. It is therefore essential to keep medicines locked away where children cannot reach them.

DO NOT put tablets and/or methadone in bottles without child-resistant lids.

DO NOT keep methadone, tablets, drugs or alcohol where children can get hold of them.

If you buy methadone and tablets off the street remember:

• You cannot be sure of the strength or the purity
• They may not be in bottles with child-resistant lids
• If a child does swallow them you may not be able to tell the doctor what they have taken.

• Make sure you store it SAFELY

As little as a teaspoon of methadone could kill a young child.