

## Head Injury...

Signs that the person should go or be taken to an emergency department straightaway;

- Any loss of consciousness (being 'knocked out') from which the person has now recovered..
- Any problems with memory of events before or after the injury.
- A headache since the injury that won't go away..
- Previous brain surgery.
- Has or has had a problem with uncontrollable bleeding or a blood clotting disorder.
- Currently taking medicine that may cause bleeding problems (for example; Warfarin).
- Age 65 years or over.
- Irritability or altered behaviour such as being easily distracted, not themselves, no concentration, or no interest in things around them (this is particularly important for infants and children under 5 years).
- The person is drunk or has taken drugs.
- A suspicion that the injury was caused intentionally by the person or by someone else.

## Head Injury...

Signs that an ambulance should be called (Dial 999);

- Unconsciousness, or lack of full consciousness (for example, problems keeping eyes open).
- Problems understanding, speaking, reading or writing (since the injury),
- Loss of feeling in part of the body (since the injury).
- Problems balancing or walking (since the injury).
- General weakness (since the injury).
- Any changes in eyesight.
- Any clear fluid running from ears or nose.
- A black eye with no obvious damage around the eye.
- Bleeding from one or both ears.
- New deafness in one or both ears.
- Bruising behind one or both ears.
- Any evidence of scalp or skull damage, especially when the skull has been penetrated.
- A forceful blow to the head at speed (for example, a pedestrian hit by a car, a car or bicycle crash, a diving accident, a fall of 1 metre or more, or a fall down more than five stairs).
- A convulsion or fit (since the injury).