**Ingested foreign body – Emergency management in children – Flowchart**

Child presents to ED with suspected foreign body (FB) ingestion (based on history and/or symptoms)

**Assessment (history and examination)**
Aim to identify size, shape and nature of FB and time of ingestion. Keep child nil by mouth. Assess all children at risk in missing button battery incident.

- Button battery ingestion excluded
- No signs of airway or GI obstruction or perforation

**X-ray required?** *(Box A)*
- X-rays: neck, chest and abdomen
- +/- lateral X-rays (to identify >1 magnet)

**Period of observation**
- Close observation
- Repeat X-ray within 24 hours only required for oesophageal body (consider inpatient admission)

**Symptoms?**
- Asymptomatic
- Normal clinical examination
- Certain history of ingesting object that is ALL of:
  - <2 cm in diameter and <6 cm long
  - Not sharp or pointed
  - Not a magnet or battery
  - Non-expandable
  - Non-toxic
  - Able to eat and drink
  - No known GI abnormalities

**Specialist advice required?** *(Box B)*
- Button battery in oesophagus?
- Button battery in stomach or intestine.

**Time-critical endoscopy required**
If <12 hours post-ingestion & child aged >1 year give 10 mL honey every 10 mins (max 6 doses) as first aid while awaiting theatre. Otherwise nil by mouth.

**Yes**
- Consider discharge with advice +/- early review as indicated
- Seek advice as indicated
- Prompt referral to Paeds Gastro
- Urgent referral to ENT
- Urgent referral to Paeds Surgery

**No**
- Discharge with advice
- Consider discharge with advice +/- early review as indicated
- Seek advice as indicated

**Box A: Consider not proceeding with X-rays if child meets ALL of the following:**
- Asymptomatic
- Normal clinical examination
- Certain history of ingesting object that is ALL of:
  - <2 cm in diameter and <6 cm long
  - Not sharp or pointed
  - Not a magnet or battery
  - Non-expandable
  - Non-toxic
  - Able to eat and drink
  - No known GI abnormalities

Seek urgent advice via Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ) on 1300 799 127 if not onsite
Seek prompt advice via CATCH on (07) 3068 4510 if no local service
Seek advice if any of:
- Symptomatic or
- >24 hours post-ingestion of oesophageal FB
- Gastrointestinal abnormalities

**Box B: Specialist advice recommendations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingested object</th>
<th>Location of foreign body and relevant specialist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Button battery</td>
<td>Oesophagus – ENT Stomach – Paeds Gastro Beyond – Paeds Gastro*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple magnets or single magnet and metallic object</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharp or pointed objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead-containing or other toxic objects**</td>
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<td>Expandable (superabsorbent polymers)</td>
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<td>Single magnet</td>
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<td>Food bolus</td>
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<tr>
<td>None of the above but &gt;2 cm in diameter and/or 36 cm in length</td>
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<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
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</tbody>
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* Will refer to Paediatric Surgery if needed
** Seek toxicologist advice via Poisons Information Line (Ph: 13 11 26) if unsure