

Signs and Symptoms of Blocked Shunt *for parents*

One of a series of fact sheets produced by the Family Support Service

As you are aware, your child has had a shunt inserted. Occasionally the shunt can become blocked. If this happens your child will require hospital treatment. This leaflet will explain the signs and symptoms of a blocked shunt that you should look for.

Any combination of the following symptoms may indicate a blocked shunt:

- **Complain of feeling (or have?) nausea, vomiting or headache**
- **Be listless and/or have restless sleep**
- **Have changes in behaviour**
- **Have obvious swelling anywhere along the shunt site or reservoir (if one is present)**

In addition, babies may give a high pitched cry and the veins on their scalp may be enlarged, with their fontanelle (soft spot) tight and bulging.

Please remember that it may be a problem unrelated to the shunt and the symptoms may be caused by other illnesses, such as a virus or an infection.

If you are worried and suspect shunt blockage 'phone or go to Accident and Emergency.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Family Support Workers at:

Scottish Spina Bifida Association - Family Support Service

Address: The Dan Young Building, 6 Craighalbert Way, Cumbernauld, G68 0LS • Tel: 01236 794516 • Fax: 01236 736435

Lo-Call Helpline: 08459 11 11 12 • E-mail: familysupport@ssba.org.uk • Web: www.ssba.org.uk

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