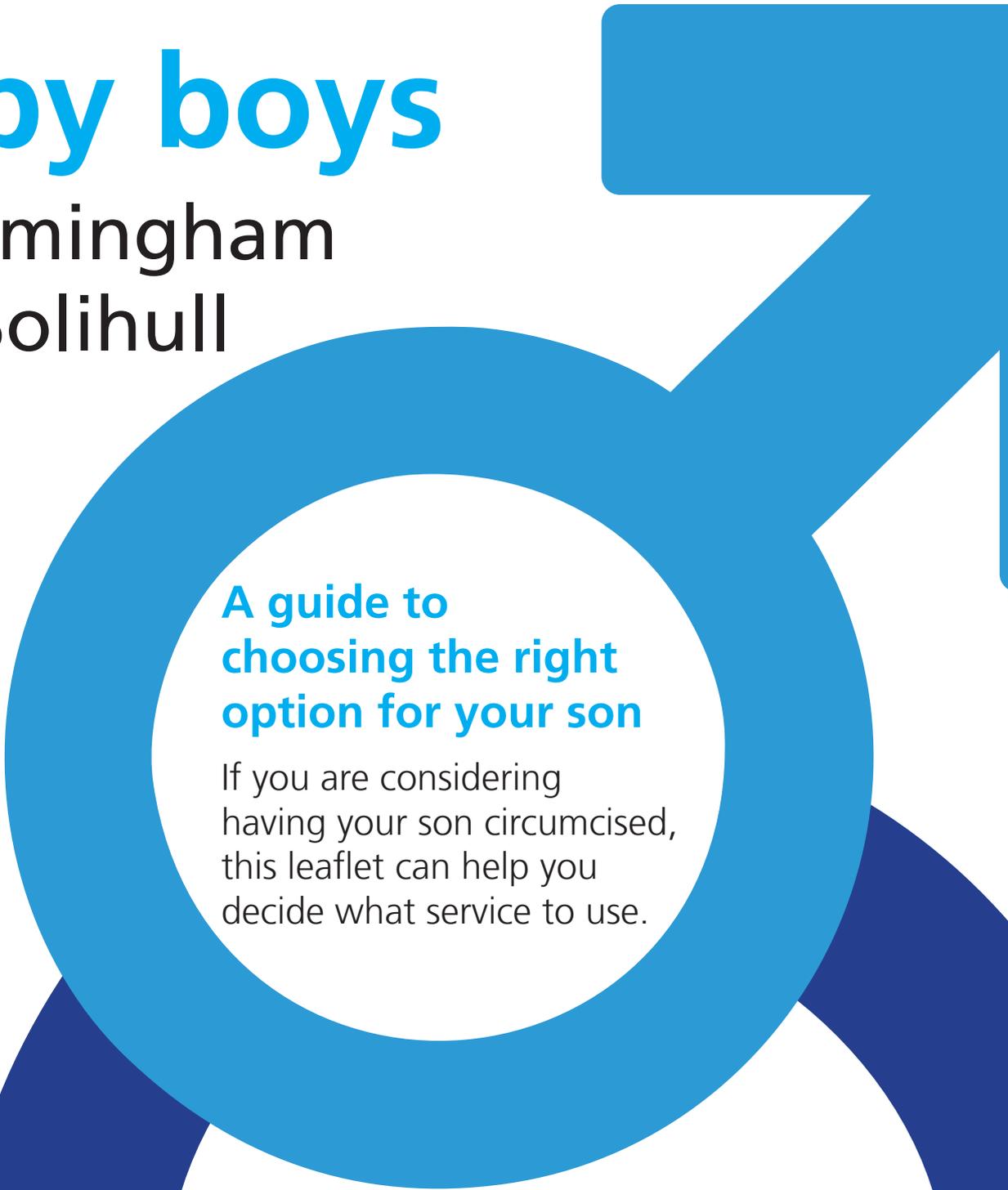


# Circumcision services for baby boys

in Birmingham  
and Solihull

A large, stylized blue male symbol (♂) is positioned on the right side of the page. It features a circle with a horizontal bar extending to the right and a diagonal bar extending upwards and to the right. The symbol is partially overlaid by a white circle containing text.

**A guide to  
choosing the right  
option for your son**

If you are considering  
having your son circumcised,  
this leaflet can help you  
decide what service to use.

## What you need to know

Although most boys recover well with no problems, like all operations circumcision carries a risk of harm. You should fully consider the risk and if you still want to proceed carefully choose your practitioner.

The NHS only pays for medically-necessary circumcisions - these are rare and do not include operations carried out for religious and cultural purposes.

The General Medical Council (GMC) recognises that male circumcision can be carried out for religious and cultural reasons.

### Where can I go to have my son circumcised?

There are a range of circumcision practitioners who can perform operations in Birmingham and Solihull, or in other areas. We recommend that you check that the service you decide to use is registered with the **Care Quality Commission (CQC)**. This is the regulator for healthcare providers and all circumcision services with doctors or nurses should be registered. Visit their website at [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk) or call 03000 616161.

For details of CQC registered circumcision practitioners, please visit [www.cqc.org.uk/search](http://www.cqc.org.uk/search) and type in "circumcision" and the area or location.

### What are the qualifications of the individuals who perform the circumcision?

Check that the doctors are registered with the General Medical Council. Visit the website at [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org) or call 0161 923 6602.

If the procedure is being undertaken by a nurse, check that they are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Visit the website at [www.nmc-uk.org](http://www.nmc-uk.org) or call 020 7637 7181.

### How much will it cost me to have my boy circumcised and how will I be billed?

You will most likely need to pay for the circumcision, so ensure that the total price has been clearly explained in writing before the procedure. You should consider asking a number of services for their cost to confirm that they are in line with what other providers charge for the same service.

Make sure all costs and payment options associated with your care plan are consistently explained and outlined on your bill. Find out whether you need to pay up front or receive an invoice afterwards.



## Is there an age limit to having my baby boy circumcised?

We recommend that your son's circumcision is done when he is as young as possible. The World Health Organisation states that the baby must weigh more than 2.5kg (5.5 pounds) in order for the circumcision to be carried out. Therefore, contacting your proposed practitioner for advice as early as possible is recommended. Some services can also carry out circumcision if your son is much older and even in adulthood.

## Consent

Someone with parental responsibility must give consent before the operation happens. Consent means you want to have your son circumcised and that the operation and potential risks have been explained to you.

You should feel free to ask questions. All good practitioners should be happy to answer your questions. You must feel confident in the practitioner you use.



The practitioner should ask you about your son's health and your family's health history before doing the circumcision, in particular any condition that causes easy bleeding or bruising. Your son should be in good health before the circumcision.

## How does the service ensure confidentiality of health information for me or my family?

They should use a secure computer or records system.

## Does the service do lots of successful circumcisions?

The more they do, usually indicates the safer the procedure is. The minimum should be 20 per year, but the higher number, the better.

## Does the service offer literature explaining its services and fees?

Ask to see this in advance and ask for anything you do not understand to be explained. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

## Are they willing to discuss any special needs that I may have?

Make sure they listen and act on any needs that you may have. Make sure you are treated with respect when inquiring about available care and services. Make sure they are sensitive to your cultural values and beliefs.

Clinical services should always treat you with respect.

## How many different people will provide care and services to my son?

Find out from the circumcision service if doctors, nurses or other kinds of staff will be looking after your son. Ask if there will be a doctor on site.

## Am I allowed to be with my boy when he is being circumcised?

If you want to be with your son when the circumcision is performed, you need to talk about this with the person who will be doing the circumcision. Some, not all, practitioners are happy for you to be present, so discuss this when you first contact them.

## What else do I need to be aware of prior to the surgical procedure?

The place should be clean. Sterile, single-use instruments should be used in order to reduce the risk of your son developing an infection.

A good practitioner should use equipment and techniques designed to make the operation as safe as possible. You may want to make the circumcision part of a family celebration, but remember, circumcision is an operation and needs to be performed in a suitable place that is quiet and clean with sterile equipment.

## Is circumcision painful?

Having a circumcision will be painful for your son. You should be told about how the pain will be managed during the circumcision and how to reduce his pain at home afterwards. This may include use of sucrose and EMLA cream as well as children's paracetamol and ibuprofen.

## What will happen after the surgical procedure?

Your son should be kept at the premises for at least 30 minutes after bleeding from the circumcision has stopped. The staff should talk you through what happens next and how to care for your son. When you go home, you should be given a detailed leaflet about how to look after your son, including when and where to seek help, and any signs to look out for. The practitioner should provide a staffed 24hr helpline number or named member of staff for you to contact once you have left.

If a procedure is carried out towards the end of the week, check and ask about support provided by the service over the weekend.

If you are worried about your son after the circumcision, you should immediately contact the practitioner. If you cannot get in touch with them, or are not happy with their advice, you should ring NHS 111 or, if you feel it is an emergency then contact 999 and wait for an ambulance.

Remember, if you arrive for the circumcision and you are not happy with anything or worried about your son's health for any reason, you do not need to go through with the circumcision at this time. Any good practitioner should listen to your worries and rearrange or cancel if that is what you wish.

## What happens if I am unhappy with the service?

If you are unhappy about the service you received, first speak to the practitioner that did the circumcision. If you are not happy with their response, you can contact either the General Medical Council <https://www.gmc-uk.org/concerns> or the Nursing and Midwifery Council <https://www.nmc.org.uk/concerns-nurses-midwives/>.

## Contacting the CCG

If you have any queries relating to this leaflet you can contact NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG by calling 0121 203 3300 and asking to speak to the Communications Team or emailing them at [communications.bsolccg@nhs.net](mailto:communications.bsolccg@nhs.net).