



## Thomas's story - a severe accident

Thomas buys his first car at the weekend. On Saturday evening he loses control on a wet road near the specialist emergency care hospital and suffers severe brain injuries.

Even though the specialist emergency care hospital is very close, the ambulance crew drive him with blue lights straight to St George's Hospital, which is the nearest 'major trauma' (severe accident response) centre.

It is very important that Thomas receives specialist and expert care from the experienced doctors, nurses and other specialists in the trauma team. There are four of these teams at four NHS trusts in London, including St George's Hospital

in South West London. Because the ambulance bypasses his local A&E and takes Thomas straight to the nearest trauma centre, he has the best chance of survival and the smallest risk of permanent disability.

Thanks to the specialist trauma team at St George's Hospital, Thomas is able to walk, talk and play football again only 10 months after the accident. This system of bypassing local A&Es and taking patients to specialist trauma centres (if this means they will receive the most appropriate care) has been in place in London since 2009 and has saved many lives. The same system is used for patients who have had a heart attack or stroke. This system would continue under these new proposals.

