



# Updates from your Surgery in Children Network

## Focus on delivering national standards

### A message from Simon...

In November, we contacted all of our board representatives to share our standards and strategy for our Surgery in Children self assessment review. The core team have been working hard to pull together standards from existing published national documents and develop a process to support local delivery of the standards and identify areas for improvement.

Pandemic permitting, we look forward to coming out to visit local teams at the start of 2022, and hearing about the fantastic working going on within our network.

I know the next few months are going to be challenging so please let us know if we can help in any way, and I hope you have time to celebrate Christmas with your families and friends at the end of a tough year. Happy Christmas.



Simon Courtman - Clinical Director for the SW SIC ODN

### This Year's Highlights

This year our core team became complete with the appointment of our Lead Nurse and Network Support Manager. Here are a few of our 2021 highlights as a network team:

- \* Continued networking across the region to support the response to challenges raised by the national pandemic, with over 150 individuals signed up as part of the Restoration and Recovery group.
- \* Proactive engagement with our three clinical working groups with regional representatives coming together to review pathways and patient experiences.
- \* Developing a clinical nursing forum with new and old members across the South West network.
- \* Meeting patient experience and public involvement colleagues to scope how to include children and families in our work, and to understand their experience of care on a surgical pathway across the region - we aim to have a survey for children and parents to complete by the middle of next year.
- \* Supporting the development of Surgery in Children ODNs across the country and meeting colleagues from other regions to discuss areas of shared interest such as surgical line services for children, looking to standardise network usage and access for surgical lines across the South West.

### National Updates



The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cessation of all but the most urgent elective children's surgical cases during the period of peak prevalence of infection. There is now a focus on addressing the huge backlog of procedures which have been delayed since the beginning of the pandemic in a safe and effective way. RCPCH have updated their recommendations to reflect changes made in the past year, which are available [here](#).

#### Coming soon...

- The T&O GIRFT report is expected to be released soon.
- A prospective review of paediatric torsion care has been launched by NCEPOD, with the aim to be published in 2022.
- The development of a national pathway for suspected appendicitis is being led by the national GIRFT team for paediatric surgery, which has wide clinical involvement and should be shared in 2022.
- There will be publication of standards for the pre-assessment of children before surgery in response to NHSEI recommendations following a case review.

### Website Launched

Our South West Surgery in Children ODN website is now live - you can visit it at:



[southwestsicodn.nhs.uk](https://southwestsicodn.nhs.uk)

Our website will continue to develop as we progress as a network. We welcome your feedback - please [contact us](#) if you have any comments or suggestions for future content.

## Winter Wellbeing



The South West Leadership Academy have Developed wellbeing offers to support the multiple demands of winter and ongoing pressures we are facing: [Supporting You Through Winter - South West Leadership Academy](#)

NHS England have developed resources for Supporting our NHS people - helping you manage your own health and wellbeing while looking after others: [Supporting Our NHS People](#)

## Clinical Working Group Updates

### ENT

Following approval of the best practice recommendations pathway for adenotonsillectomy procedures, the group conducted a local pathway audit and are working to address regional variation in practice.

### T&O

Guy Atherton and James Barnes led the development of a survey to assess a proposed change to the pathway for patients with Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis. This was reviewed through the network group and a best practice recommendations guide is in development. Local teams continue to develop their forearm fracture manipulation pathways with progress and challenges being shared through the network.

### General Surgery & Urology

The suspected appendicitis best practice recommendations have been worked up by the group and due for approval imminently. Tim Rogers and Catherine Bradshaw have led the development of a survey to assess practice associated with surgical feeding tubes across the region and results from this will be shared at the next meeting.

## New SW SIC ODN Groups

### Clinical Nursing Forum

The South West Clinical Nursing Forum met in October and will meet again in the new year. We are focussed on sharing nursing knowledge and experience across the region and welcome any new members, please email [Gael Rolls](#) if you wish to be a part of this group.

### Pre-Assessment

The pre-assessment working group had their first meeting in November where we shared the results of a survey into the pre-assessment services offered throughout the South West and Thames Valley and Wessex. Our first action is to develop a paediatric pre assessment course for nurses to ensure they have the necessary skills in pre-assessing children. Our aim is to reduce cancellation of theatre lists and provide a high quality service which meets expected standards of pre-assessment care and delivers a person-centred approach to meet the needs of all our families.

You can find out more about our Clinical Working Groups on our [website](#).

## Training & Development

### Surgical Feeding Tubes

The SW SIC ODN are hosting a session on the use of surgical feeding tubes on 24th January 2022. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

To support the session we have developed a feeding tube survey which you can complete via the QR code or below link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/pLT6Sv5t3x>



### Pre-assessment Nursing Course

If you are interested in supporting the development/delivery for a course aimed at paediatric pre-assessment for nurses, please contact [Gael Rolls](#).

### Spinal or Orthopaedic Conditions

GOSH are offering a module in Care of the Child and Young Person with a Spinal or Orthopaedic Condition, running from Feb-Apr 2022



## Winter Meeting Dates

**Monday 17th January at 14:00 - 15:30**  
Restoration and Service Improvement Group

**Tuesday 18th January at 12:00 - 13:00**  
Pre-Assessment Working Group

**Monday 24th January at 14:00 - 16:00**  
General Surgery & Urology Working Group

**Monday 14th March at 14:00 - 15:30**  
SW Surgery in Children Network Board

The core team will also be visiting all of our provider organisations across the South West in January - April 2022 as part of the service review work.

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in joining any of our South West Surgery in Children distribution lists.

## Contact Us

Please get in touch with the South West Surgery in Children ODN Team if you would like to be added to our distribution list or have any questions about our areas of work:



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