



# Updates from your Surgery in Children Network

## Paving the way for Paediatric Pre-Assessment

### A message from Simon...

*With a busy start to the new year, our Surgery in Children ODN team hope that you have kept well. Over the last few weeks we have been focusing on getting out to meet with local teams and conducting service reviews. We would like to thank you all for your hospitality, it has been great to finally get back out and see the fantastic work that is being carried out across the South West in these challenging times.*

*A major theme from our service reviews so far has been the opportunity it provides to showcase great practice - there is a lot to share, thank you. We are also considering how we will incorporate emerging themes from these meetings into our review and sharing this with you. We welcome feedback at all stages of the process, and hope that as the spring months progress we will have had the opportunity to meet with the representatives for all trusts in our region.*



**Simon Courtman**  
Clinical Director, SW SIC ODN

### National Updates



#### Dental Update

Paediatric Dentistry have developed surgical prioritisation guidelines and an accompanying welfare check toolkit which can be accessed via their [website](#).

#### Staff Passports

Staff passports were implemented to support staff mobilisation during the pandemic. The passport service has been extended for 12 months and the network team are keen to utilise this to support mutual aid and cross regional collaboration when required. More information can be found [here](#).

#### Updated COVID19 Guidance

The RCPCH, BAPS, RCS and the APAGBI have released a joint statement regarding the timing of the provision of surgery in children following an episode of COVID-19 which can be found [here](#).

### Pre-Assessment

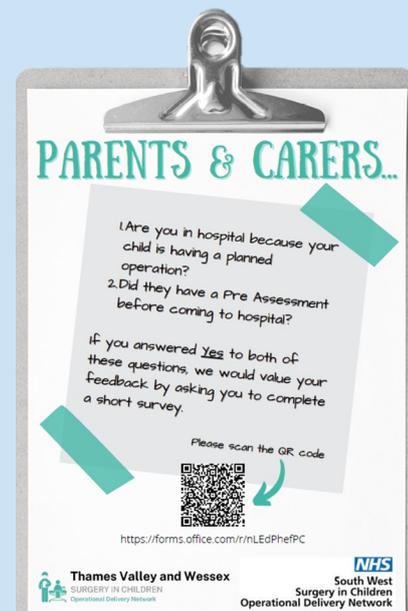
This edition of our newsletter shines a light on paediatric pre-assessment services. Across our region, we are working in conjunction with colleagues in the Thames Valley & Wessex Surgery in Children Network to improve the service offered to all of our families prior to coming into hospital for a planned procedure.

New guidance supported by the Centre for Peri-Operative Care and the Royal College of Anaesthetists will be published imminently. This is the first time that standards for paediatric pre-assessment have been published - these will underpin the best practice guidance which the networks will produce in conjunction with the pre-assessment working group, and shared across all trusts.

In our scoping survey which was sent to all trusts prior to starting our monthly working group meetings, a major gap was identified in the lack of a paediatric pre-assessment nursing course. To address this gap, we are currently working in multi disciplinary groups across the region to produce course content and competencies, and are hoping to run the first course later this year.

We are also gathering child and family experience of pre-assessment across the region. Please continue to encourage all families to complete our **survey** after any planned procedure. Thank you to everyone who is supporting us with this survey, and particularly to colleagues in Taunton where we have received 42 responses from so far!

Please **contact us** if you would like to learn any more or are interested in joining our Pre-Assessment Working Group.





## Spring Meeting Dates

**Pre-Assessment Working Group**  
Tuesday 29th March at 11:00 - 12:00

**Clinical Nurse Forum**  
Wednesday 6th April at 11:00 - 12:00

**Regional Restoration & Service Improvement Group**  
Thursday 14th April at 11:00 - 12:30

**Trauma and Orthopaedics Working Group**  
Monday 16th May at 15:00 - 16:30

**'Sharing Innovations in Practice to Achieve Awake MRI in Young and Complex Patients'**  
Thursday 9th June at 14:00 - 16:00

We are delighted to be collaborating with ODN colleagues to deliver this share and learn event ([Click here to register](#))

## Clinical Working Group Updates

### ENT

Following the audit of regional tonsillectomy pathways, the group identified four areas of consideration for our work over the coming months - access to coblation training, auditing of readmissions, post operative analgesia regimes, and sharing of information provided to patients.

### T&O

Best practice recommendations have been developed for the management of Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis, and shared across the region for comment. The group will be sharing practice regarding the management of forearm fractures. Following network support, funding has been agreed for regional access to gait analysis - the service is being delivered to children across the South West in collaboration with the University of the West of England.

### General Surgery & Urology

The group ran a Surgical Feeding Tubes education session in January, led by Katherine Bradshaw. The network would like to thank Kate Wills and Becs Swinbank for their session on gastromy / gastrojejunal tabus care and complications - available to view [here](#). The group will be reviewing the audit of the suspected appendicitis best practice pathway to identify local and regional areas for support or improvement.

### Clinical Nursing Forum

Our next meeting will focus on surgical nurse education in the South West, and patient and family experience. A link to our survey into current education provided across the region is included in the newsletter in the training opportunities section - please complete this to have your voice heard in surgical education.

### Regional Restoration and Service Improvement

January's Regional Restoration and Service Improvement provided an opportunity to review progress in restoration, current waiting lists, and share challenges in recovery across the region.

You can find out more about our groups on our [website](#).

## Coming Soon...



- Child and Families Experience in the Surgical Pathway
- National Suspected Appendicitis Pathway
- SW SIC ODN Annual Report 2021 / 22



## Training & Development

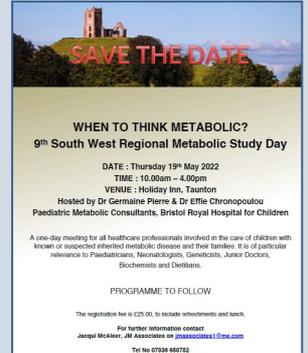


### Nurse Education Survey

We would like to support the professional development of nursing colleagues across the region, and in order to do this we are keen to understand what education and training is currently available to nursing staff across the South West. Please share your experience of education within your trust to help us identify common themes across the region - [click here](#) to start the survey.

### When To Think Metabolic?

The South West Regional Paediatric Metabolic Department are holding their Annual Regional Study Day on Thursday 19th May 2022 at Holiday Inn, Taunton. Click the poster for more information, or contact [jmassociates1@me.com](mailto:jmassociates1@me.com)



### Surgical Feeding Tube Education Session

Our General Surgery and Urology Working Group supported the delivery of an education session in January 2022 which focused of surgical feeding tubes. You can watch the session [here](#).



## Network Patient Safety

### Battery Button

Following a recent request, we would like to remind network colleagues of the [existing guidelines](#) related to potential battery button swallows and that the emphasis with the pathway is aimed at emergency endoscopy.

### Tracheostomy

There is a national shortage of paediatric Bivona tracheostomy tubes. A [risk stratification tool](#) has been circulated to support decision making, and mutual aid is to be co-ordinated via [england.sw-roc21@nhs.net](mailto:england.sw-roc21@nhs.net).

## Contact Us

Please get in touch if you would like to learn more about our areas of work or would like to be added to our distribution lists:



[ubh-tr.swsicodn@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.swsicodn@nhs.net)



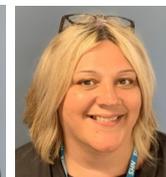
[southwestsicodn.nhs.uk](http://southwestsicodn.nhs.uk)



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