



Updates from your Surgery in Children Network

Sharing Innovations: Network Collaboration - Awake MRI

A message from Simon...

We have enjoyed continuing our tour around the South West. It has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and drive to help develop children's surgical services - there are lots of excellent examples of good practice which we look forward to showcasing in the coming months.

We will be sharing more feedback on the visits and outputs at our next Network Board, and we hope to have a highlights report to share more widely by the end of the Summer.

I am delighted that APAGBI have published their 'Best Practice Guidance: Preassessment Services for Children undergoing Surgery or Procedures' which is endorsed by the Royal Collage of Anaesthetists. We look forward to working with teams around the region to support implementation of these guidelines.

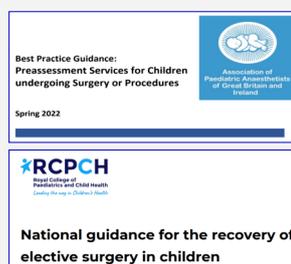
Simon Courtman
Clinical Director, SW SIC ODN



National Updates

The following national documents have been recently released or updated:

- ◆ The GIRFT **Paediatric Acute Abdominal Pain and Appendicectomy: Best Practice Pathway Guidance** is now available.
- ◆ The **Paediatric Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery GIRFT Report** is now available.
- ◆ The first **Preassessment Services for Children Undergoing Surgery or Procedures** guidance has been published by APAGBI, endorsed by RCoA.
- ◆ Updates have been made to the **RCPCH National Guidance for the Restoration and Recovery of Elective Surgery in Children**.



Sharing Innovations in Practice to Achieve Awake MRI in Young and Complex Patients

In June 2022, the South West Surgery in Children ODN collaborated with our neighbouring networks - the Thames Valley & Wessex Surgery in Children ODN and the South Paediatric Neurosciences ODN - to facilitate a share and learn event promoting innovative methods of MRI practice used to support achieving awake MRIs in young and complex patients to reduce the need for GA.

Over 80 multidisciplinary colleagues from across the South and South West attended the session, including



play specialist, radiographers, anaesthetists, nurses, and managers. You can watch the recording of the event [here](#).

The event showcased the pivotal role that play specialists have in supporting and developing MRI pathways, and our presenters shared some of the innovative methods currently being used across the region to reduce the need for GA, highlighting the many benefits of awake MRI which include:

- ◆ Improved patient safety
- ◆ Enhanced patient and carer experience
- ◆ Less time spent in hospital
- ◆ Reduction in GA waiting lists
- ◆ Cost savings



Next Steps...

We will continue to work with other ODNs to progress this further - as discussed during the event, possible next steps include establishing a network group of interested parties, developing a shared directory of resources, developing a regional Best Practice Recommendations guideline, and holding a follow up 'share and learn' event.

Contact us if you would like to learn more or be involved in the next steps.

Network News

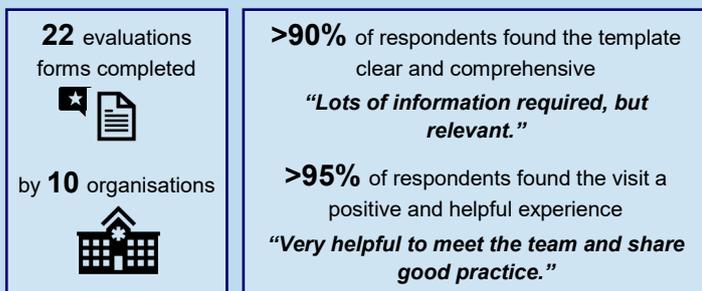
- ◆ Our [2021/22 Annual Report](#) is now available.
- ◆ We are exploring options to run a regional Surgery in Children event in the coming months - [please complete our survey](#) to answer questions on potential themes, topics and timings.

Service Review Visit Summary

Between February and June 2022, the ODN team visited all provider organisations across the South West as part of our service review process.



Following the visits, the ODN developed a survey to gather regional colleagues' feedback on the process so far:



High level findings were presented to the Network Board in June, and a detailed recommendations report will be published over the summer.

⚠ Network Patient Safety

Tracheostomy Update: As the national shortage of paediatric Bivona tracheostomy tubes continues, please see [updated guidance](#) from the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists to support decision making and provide information for parents of affected children.

Weight Estimation: Learning from a recent incident where a patient had an incorrect weight estimated used for medication calculation, risks with estimating weight can have serious consequence. In emergency situations where it is not possible to use standard scales, a patient transfer scale can be used.



Education

[Sign up](#) for a free study day on 21st July in **skin health & wound care for children** by the Society of Tissue Viability

Enhance your confidence and skills caring for CYP with mental health needs, autism, or learning disabilities and their families or carers through the [elearning for healthcare programme](#)



Save the date for our [nursing / AHP surgical study day](#), which will be held on **21st September 2022**



Our Pre-assessment Nursing Course will be taking place on **11th + 19th October 2022** - applications invited. Contact [Gael Rolls](#) for more information.

Our Clinical Working Groups

ENT: the need for increased coblation training was identified as a priority following the publication of the **best practice recommendations: adenotonsillectomy day case pathway**. The network liaised with Smith & Nephew to provide a regional training event on 28th June in Taunton. Aligning analgesia and information provision will be progressed at the next meeting.

T&O: the group met in May and approved the best practice recommendations for the management of **Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis** in children, which was recently published on our website. An audit of this pathway will be conducted in the coming months. In response to several requests, the group are looking at the delivery of Botulinum Toxin across the region by preparing a survey to be completed by each trust to understand current practice and agree an approach to support equitable and standardised delivery for children in the South West.

General Surgery & Urology: the group will meet in the Autumn to review the newly published Paediatric Acute Abdominal Pain and Appendicectomy: Best Practice Pathway Guidance

Pre-Assessment: the recently published pre-assessment guidance for children has informed the development of our nursing course. The content for the training course has now been agreed, and we are calling for speakers among our POAS anaesthetists and nurses in the South West. There are competencies and an AP workbook to consolidate the learning on the course.

Clinical Nursing Forum: the forum met to discuss surgical nurse education needs across the region - thank you to all who completed the survey! We presented the results and mapped current provision in trusts against each area's needs that you described. Following this, the ODN has partnered with the Thames Valley & Wessex Surgery in Children ODN to develop a surgical nurse study day which will address some of the identified gaps.

Regional Restoration and Service Improvement: the group continues to share and discuss waiting lists, in particular awareness of challenges around dental backlogs across the South West.

Research Review

Magnet Ingestion in Children: A prospective surveillance study

An [opt-in UK-wide study](#) of children ≤ 16 years old ingesting ≤ 1 magnetic foreign body to investigate the incidence, management and outcomes opened on 1st May 2022. Please consider supporting this within your organisation.

Little Journey App: Randomised Control Trial

Little Journey are undertaking an RCT to assess the app's ability to support pre-operative anxiety. The trial is NIHR funded and looking for additional sites to get involved. Please contact [Ramani Moonesigne](#), the Chief Investigator, if you wish to be considered as a research site.

Contact Us

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



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