



# Updates from your Surgery in Children Network

## Workstream progress....from tonsils to testicles...

### A message from Simon...

It is 12 months since we undertook the majority of our review visits around the region and had the fantastic opportunity to meet many of the network teams to discuss pathways and plans for developing childrens surgical services. One year on, we have been linking in with local hospitals teams sharing updates on activity data and areas of development. It has been positive to see many areas of progress around the region such as in day case rates and pathways to support pre-assessment (see more details below). We look forward to continuing to work with you all in these excellent areas of service improvement. As a network team we are also looking forward to a forthcoming review ourselves with the 'Getting It Right First Time' national team undertaking a review of Surgery in Children Operational Delivery Networks. Our review date is set for the 1st September and all of our wider network are welcome to attend. Please contact the core team if you are interested in attending the virtual review meeting.

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



### Improvements in Tonsillectomy Day Case Rates Across the South West

The SW SIC ENT Clinical Working Group and regional teams have been focusing on delivering the national recommendation to increase the proportion of children undergoing a tonsillectomy procedure treated as a day case, thus avoiding an over-night stay.

Over the past 2 years improvements in pathways and coding have been made, and we are delighted to note improvements that can be demonstrated across all centres in the region. This work has been picked up by the national GIRFT team who will be publishing a case study summary of the wider network's achievements - the core team would like to say and big thank you and well done to all involved!

Centre	Day Case Rate 12 months ending	
	Q4 20/21	Q4 22/23
1	100%	99%
2	77%	82%
3	64%	81%
4	63%	68%
5	56%	70%
6	42%	52%
7	35%	71%
8	28%	70%
9	15%	64%

### Best Practice Developments in Urology

The network have facilitated surgeons in the region agreeing Best Practice Recommendations for boys requiring a circumcision - the Paediatric Circumcision Pathway is available [here](#). Focus has been on reducing the amount of boys being circumcised unnecessarily, with a regional standard for conservative primary care management prior to meeting criteria for surgery.

Keeping the focus on boys, we were aware of the need for similar regional best practice for Testicular Torsion, to ensure that all boys presenting with acute scrotal pain are managed appropriately in a timely manner, and receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. Best practice guidance for paediatric testicular torsion in the South West is currently being drafted, which includes a reference to a public health campaign 'Save Balls' which is used to raise awareness of the implications of acute scrotal pain - further information can be accessed [here](#).



A national GIRFT torsion pathway is currently in discussion, which the regional best practice guidance will align with. Please contact [Gael](#) or [Catherine](#). If you would like to input into the torsion pathway.

### Positive Developments in Pre-Assessment Services

Pre-assessment services continue to grow and develop across the South West with continued sharing of best practice. Nurses from all providers in our region have now attended the Paediatric Practitioner Pre-Assessment Course, and feedback from the October 2022 pilot cohort of Learners has shown a marked rise in competence from pre-course to post-course:

Increased competency across all areas and no significant change in perceived importance

Competencies (number of statements)	Perceived level of achievement		Opinion on importance	
	Pre-course (10)##	Post course (10)##	Pre-course (10)##	Post-course (10)##
Airways (6)	2.4	3.8	4.4	4.5
Breathing/ respiratory (8)	2.9	4.3	4.4	4.4
Cardiovascular (5)	3.2	4.0	4.5	4.5
Communication (8)	3.8	4.5	4.8	4.8
Escalation & Governance (7)	3.0	4.0	4.6	4.3

The third cohort of practitioners will commence on the course in October 2023. Please contact [Gael](#) if you are interested in enrolling.

## Clinical Working Group Updates

**Restoration and Service Improvement:** The meeting in May included a presentation from the national team developing the SPaedIT tool which will provide provider level data on demand, capacity and theatre utilisation to support recovery. Sarah Wimlett also shared work the Plymouth team are undertaking to review a new tool for re-prioritising patients who are waiting for surgery.

**General Surgery & Urology Working Group:** The group meeting in June included presentations from colleagues from Torbay and Plymouth on appendicitis and orchiopexy. Thanks to Polly Estridge & Aliabbas Moosa for sharing their sessions – presentation recordings can be viewed [here](#) on our NHS Futures platform.

**T&O Working Group:** During the June meeting, Luke Duggleby presented an audit that had been undertaken at Great Western Hospital to support the development of the forearm fracture management pathway - the group agreed further focus on this moving forward.

**ENT Working Group:** The meeting in June included a presentation by the South Thames Paediatric Network on their managing emergency airways work. The group also considered improvements in day case for tonsillectomy pathways and agreed to survey practice on management of atypical TB.

**Pre-Assessment Working Group:** The group met in June and discussed local service improvements and challenges. A generic business case has been written and is available [here](#). Applications for the next pre-assessment practitioner course taking place in the Autumn are [now open](#) - the study days will be held 10<sup>th</sup> October, 31<sup>st</sup> October & 7<sup>th</sup> November. Applications of interest to be sent to [Gael](#)

**Optimising MRI Pathways for Children Group:** In May the group met to discuss the first draft of the Paediatric MRI Pathway Best Practice Recommendations which has been developed by a small Task and Finish Group - work on the document will continue over the summer. Fran Greenaway presented an audit on MRI scans carried out at North Devon, and the workforce scoping survey for Play services across the region is now live.

## National GIRFT Review



The National Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) Team are carrying out reviews of all Surgery in Children ODNs across England. Our South West Surgery in Children Review Meeting with the GIRFT Team will take place on Friday 1st September at 13:00. These meetings provide a fantastic opportunity to discuss the network's progress and consider future priorities.

All colleagues involved with the SW SIC ODN are welcome to attend this virtual meeting—please contact us if you would like to attend or learn more:  
[ubh-tr.swsicodn@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.swsicodn@nhs.net)

## Contact Us

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



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



[future.nhs.uk/SWChildrenSurgeryODN](http://future.nhs.uk/SWChildrenSurgeryODN)

## Surgery in Children Nurse Study Day

Following the success of our 2022 event, our next Nurse Education Day will be held on Wednesday 27th September 2023 via MS Teams.



The study day is aimed at nurses working within our regional hospitals caring for children undergoing surgery, and is run collaboratively with TV&W Surgery in Children ODN colleagues. [Register for free](#) on Eventbrite.

Click [here](#) to view the poster and see what topics will be covered.

## National Updates & Initiatives

### Anaesthesia for Children Living With Obesity:

The Society of Bariatric Anaesthesia have produced a [one-page guideline](#) for the care of children living with obesity requiring anaesthesia, from pre-assessment onwards.

**Paeds Prescribing Pro:** [Paeds Prescribing Pro](#) is a helpful tool for paediatric prescribers including dosages and calculator - **please ensure all prescriptions are checked as per local policy**

**Children & Young People Nursing Network:** The CYP Nursing Network launched in June 2023 and provides a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and continuous learning. Learn more or join the network on NHS Futures [here](#).

**BSCOS Forearm Pathway:** BSCOC published a [Paediatric Forearm Fracture Manipulation in the ED](#) pathway in February 2023 with the GIRFT team.

**Healthy Child Programme:** The CYP team are very pleased to announce the launch of the [Healthy Child Programme Schedule of Interventions Guide](#). This tool improves access to evidence-informed approaches to support local decision-making on early intervention and preventive care from preconception up to 25 years.

**CYP Elective Recovery Webinars:** The National CYP Elective Recovery Team are running a campaign to promote CYP Elective Recovery nationally. A series of webinars and round table discussions are taking place on a variety of topics - further details and recordings can be found here on the [CYP Elective Recovery NHS Futures Platform](#).

## Autumn Meeting Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> September: GIRFT Team Review of SW SIC ODN
  - 18<sup>th</sup> September: T&O Working Group
  - 20<sup>th</sup> September: Optimising MRI Pathways for Children
  - 27<sup>th</sup> September: Surgical & Recovery Nurse Study Day
  - 28<sup>th</sup> September: ENT Working Group
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> October: Restoration & Service Improvement Group
  - 4<sup>th</sup> October: Pre-Assessment Working Group
  - 27<sup>th</sup> November: SW SIC Network Board
- General Surgery and Urology Working Group TBC