

Emergency (non-elective) procedures in children and young people: Clinician survey

A. Introduction

What is this study about?

The aim of this study is to identify good practice and remediable factors in the delivery of care provided to children and young people (CYP) (0-18th birthday) undergoing emergency (non-elective) procedures under anaesthetic or sedation.

The study will be used to produce a report for clinicians and other healthcare professionals about how to improve the care they deliver.

Data collection methods include:

Clinician views (survey)

Case note review

Information is being collected across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Jersey. It is essential that we hear the views and experiences of clinicians who treat these patients directly. If you would like a copy of the final report, please email: eps@ncepod.org.uk

Who should complete this questionnaire?

Please complete this survey if you are a surgeon (operator) or anaesthetist involved in the care of children and young people 0-18 years undergoing emergency (non-elective) procedures

Please answer the questions in this survey based on your current role and organisation, based on your day-to-day practice.

All responses given as part of this study are confidential

Questions or help

If you have any queries about this study or this questionnaire, please contact: eps@ncepod.org.uk or telephone 020 7251 9060.

This study was commissioned by The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the Clinical Outcome Review Programme into Child Health.

We recognise that some staff groups will have different experiences and will feel better able to answer some questions. Where you are unable to answer a question, please indicate this by marking your response as 'unknown'

1a. Please state your job role:

- ☐ Consultant
☐ Specialty and Associate Specialist (SAS)
☐ Trainee with CCT
☐ Senior specialist trainee (ST5+ or equivalent)
☐ Senior specialist trainee (ST3/4 or equivalent)
☐ Junior specialist trainee (ST1 & ST2 or CT equivalent)

If not listed above, please specify here...

1b. Please state your specialty:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> General Surgery | <input type="radio"/> Paediatric surgery | <input type="radio"/> Trauma and orthopaedics |
| <input type="radio"/> Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) | <input type="radio"/> Urology | <input type="radio"/> Plastic surgery |
| <input type="radio"/> Other specialist surgery | <input type="radio"/> General medicine | <input type="radio"/> Specialist medicine |
| <input type="radio"/> Paediatric medicine | <input type="radio"/> Anaesthetics | |

If not listed above, please specify here...

**1c. If answered "Other specialist surgery" or "Specialist medicine" to [1b] then:
If OTHER SPECIALIST SURGERY or SPECIALIST MEDICINE, please specify**

2. Please state your years of experience:

 Years

3. Which type of setting do you work in? (Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ A stand alone tertiary paediatric centre
☐ A tertiary paediatric centre in a Trust/Health Board that also treats adults
☐ A University Teaching Hospital in a Trust/Health Board which delivers surgical care to children
☐ A District General Hospital which delivers surgical care to children

If not listed above, please specify here...

4. Does your hospital provide: (Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Paediatric services ☐ Adolescent services ☐ Adult services

Please specify any additional options here...

C. Confidence and competency

1a. Approximately how many non-elective procedures do you undertake on CYP (0-18) annually?

☐ Unknown

1b. In your opinion, is this enough to maintain your confidence/competency?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

2a. Within the last year, were there any situations where you did not feel confident undertaking an emergency procedure on a CYP 0-18 years old?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

**2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:
If YES, please expand on your answer**

3. In general, from what age of child would you operate/anaesthetise?

☐ Unknown

4. Do you transfer children (who require a non-elective procedure) to another hospital because of age?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

5a. In your opinion, do you get appropriate supervision?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

☐ Not applicable - consultant

**5b. If answered "No" to [5a] then:
If not, why not (please expand on your answer)**

6a. If you work outside of a tertiary paediatric centre, do you feel supported by your local paediatric centre in the provision of advice?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

☐ Not applicable

6b. If answered "No" to [6a] then:

If NO, why not (please give details)

6c. If you work outside of a tertiary paediatric centre, do you feel supported by your local paediatric centre in the acceptance of referrals?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

☐ Not applicable

6d. If answered "No" to [6c] then:

If NO, why not (please give details)

1a. How do you maintain your skills/competencies in providing care to children and young people undergoing non-elective procedures? (Please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Internal CPD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> External CPD | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional paediatric surgery update |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional paediatric anaesthetic update | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

Please specify any additional options here...

1b. Please give any further details:

2. Do you feel there are adequate opportunities available for you to develop / maintain your skills in providing care to children and young people undergoing non-elective procedures?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

1. In your opinion, what one thing would improve the delivery of care for children and young people undergoing non-elective procedures?

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

By doing so you have contributed to the dataset that will form the report and recommendations due for release in early 2026