

Emergency (non-elective) procedures in children and young people: Surgical questionnaire

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.

Inclusions

CYP aged 0 to 18 years, undergoing an emergency (non-elective) procedure.

Patients have been sampled for inclusion across two time frames:

- Time frame 1: Monday 17th June 00:00 – Sunday 30th June 23:59 2024
- Time frame 2: Monday 12th February 00:00 – Sunday 25th February 23:59 2024

Who should complete this questionnaire?

This questionnaire should be completed by the clinician who undertook the procedure. Please do not include any patient identifiers in the free text boxes

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.

CPD accreditation

Consultants who complete NCEPOD questionnaires make a valuable contribution to the investigation of patient care. Completion of questionnaires also provides an opportunity for consultants to review their clinical management and undertake a period of personal reflection. These activities have a continuing medical and professional development value for individual consultants. Consequently, NCEPOD recommends that consultants who complete NCEPOD questionnaires keep a record of this activity which can be included as evidence of internal/self directed Continuous Professional Development in their appraisal portfolio.

About NCEPOD

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) reviews healthcare practice by undertaking confidential studies, and makes recommendations to improve the quality of the delivery of care, for healthcare professionals and policymakers to implement. Data to inform the studies are collected from NHS hospitals and Independent sector hospitals across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Offshore Islands. NCEPOD are supported by a wide range of bodies and the Steering Group consists of members from the Medical Royal Colleges and Specialist Associations, as well as observers from The Coroners Society of England and Wales, and the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Impact of NCEPOD

Recommendations from NCEPOD reports have had an impact on many areas of healthcare including:

Development of the NICE 'Acutely ill patients in hospital guideline' (CG50) – 'An Acute Problem' (2005).

Appointment of a National Clinical Director for Trauma Care – 'Trauma: Who Cares?' (2007).

Development of NICE Clinical Guidelines for Acute Kidney Injury, published 2013 – 'Adding Insult to Injury' (2009).

Development of ICS Standards for the care of adult patients with a temporary Tracheostomy, published 2014 – 'On the right trach?' (2014).

Development of guidelines from the British Society of Gastroenterology: diagnosis and management of acute lower gastrointestinal bleeding, published 2019 – 'Time to Get Control' (2015).

Development of the British Thoracic Society's Quality Standards for NIV, published 2018 – 'Inspiring Change' (2017).

1a. Grade of clinician completing the questionnaire

- 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)
- Advanced nurse practitioner
- Advanced clinical practitioner
- Specialist nurse (Nurse consultant, Nurse practitioner, Clinical nurse specialist)
- Senior staff nurse

If not listed above, please specify here...

1b. Speciality of clinician completing the questionnaire

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> General Surgery | <input type="radio"/> Specialist surgery | <input type="radio"/> Paediatric surgery |
| <input type="radio"/> General medicine | <input type="radio"/> Specialist medicine | <input type="radio"/> Paediatric medicine |
| <input type="radio"/> Interventional radiologist | <input type="radio"/> Unknown | |

If not listed above, please specify here...

2. Please use the box below to provide a brief summary of this case, adding any additional comments or information you feel relevant. You should be assured that this information is confidential. NCEPOD attaches great importance to this summary. Please give as much information as possible about the care of this patient.

C. Patient details

1. Did the patient undergo an emergency (non-elective) procedure under anaesthetic or sedation during this admission?

- Yes No Unknown

If this patient did not undergo a procedure during this admission, please return this questionnaire to your Local Reporter (hand your assignment back) who will notify NCEPOD

2. What procedure did the patient undergo?

3. What was the diagnosis?

4a. Age at time of procedure

Value should be no more than 17

4b. Was the patient less than one year of age at the time of the procedure?

- Yes No Unknown

4c. If answered "Yes" to [4b] then:

If YES, were they born at less than 37 weeks gestation?

- Yes No Unknown

4d. If answered "Yes" to [4b] and "Yes" to [4c] then:

If YES, what was the gestational age at birth?

Unknown

5. Sex

- Male Female Other Unknown

6. Ethnicity

- White British/White - other
 Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
 Asian/Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, other Asian)
 Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups
 Unknown

D. Prior to arrival in hospital

1a. Approximately what date did the symptoms start?

Unknown

1b. Approximately what time did the symptoms start?

Unknown

2. From whom did the patient seek advice (prior to admission to this hospital)? (Please tick all that apply)

- NHS 111
- GP
- Urgent treatment centre
- Another hospital
- NA - presented directly to the emergency department
- Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

E. Arrival at this (the operating) hospital

1. Is this hospital:

- 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
- Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

2. Where was the patient first seen on arrival at this hospital?

- Paediatric emergency department
- Children's assessment unit (CAU)
- Medical admissions unit (MAU)
- Specialist surgical ward
- Specialist medical ward
- Adult emergency department
- Surgical admissions unit (SAU)
- General surgical ward
- General medical ward
- Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

3a. Mode of admission:

- Self referral (via the emergency department)
- GP referral
- Unknown
- 111 referral
- Transfer from another hospital

If not listed above, please specify here...

If transferred from another hospital

- 3b. If answered "Transfer from another hospital" to [3a] then:
Please provide the name of the transferring Trust/Health Board. Please do not provide any clinician names**

- 4. If answered "Transfer from another hospital" to [3a] then:
What was the reason for the transfer to this hospital? (Please tick all that apply)**

- No surgeon competent to undertake procedure
- No anaesthetist competent to anaesthetise patient
- No emergency surgical services at the referring site
- No appropriate critical care bed or facilities
- Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

F. Initial assessment on arrival

1. Were all relevant investigations performed?

Yes

No

Unknown

2a. Were there any delays in performing investigations?

Yes

No

Unknown

**2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:
If YES, did this result in delayed treatment?**

Yes

No

Unknown

G. Admission to the ward

1. Was the patient admitted to a ward prior to going to theatre?

Yes

No (taken directly to theatre)

Unknown

If NO, please go to Section H

2a. If answered "Yes" to [1] then:

Was the patient jointly under the care of a paediatrician and a surgeon?

Yes

No

Unknown

2b. If answered "Yes" to [1] and "No" to [2a] then:

If NO, which teams were involved and how?

1. Did you consider the patient to be high risk?

- Yes No Unknown

2a. Was a management plan written following the initial assessment?

- Yes No Unknown

2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:

If YES, did this include: (please tick all that apply)

- Fasting Monitoring vital signs Urgent referral to a surgeon
 Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

3a. Was the patient commenced on a dedicated pathway for emergency surgery in children and young people?

- Yes No Unknown

3b. If answered "No" to [3a] then:

If NO, was the patient commenced on any other surgical pathway?

- Yes No Unknown

3c. If answered "No" to [3a] then:

If NO (not commenced on a dedicated pathway for emergency surgery in children and young people), should they have been?

- Yes No Unknown

I. Treatment plan

1a. Were you aware of any delays in decision-making?

- Yes No Unknown

1b. If answered "Yes" to [1a] then:

If YES, did this impact on the care of the patient?

- Yes No Unknown
-

2a. Were you aware of any inappropriate delay in treatment (excluding time to procedure)?

- Yes No Unknown

2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:

If YES, in your opinion did this impact on the care of the patient?

- Yes No Unknown
-

3. In your opinion, was there adequate shared decision-making between the patient, family and professionals?

- Yes No Unknown

Please save the questionnaire as you work through this section

1a. What was the category of urgency of surgery?

- Immediate (Immediate life, limb or organ-saving intervention – resuscitation simultaneous with interve
- Urgent (Intervention for acute onset or clinical deterioration of potentially life-threatening conditions, f
- Expedited (Patient requiring early treatment where the condition is not an immediate threat to life, lim
- Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

1b. What was the proposed time frame for procedure commencement from the time of booking?

- <1 hour
- < 6 hours
- <24 hours
- >24 hours
- Unknown

2a. What was the date of the theatre booking?

Unknown

2b. What was the time of the theatre booking?

Unknown

2c. What was the grade of clinician who made the theatre booking?

- ST3+ or equivalent and above
- CT2- or equivalent and below
- Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

2d. What was the specialty of the clinician who made the theatre booking?

- General surgery
- Specialist surgery
- Paediatric surgery
- General medicine
- Specialist medicine
- Paediatric medicine
- Anaesthetics
- Interventional radiologist
- Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

**2e. If answered "Specialist surgery" to [2d] then:
If SPECIALIST SURGERY please specify**

**2f. If answered "Specialist medicine" to [2d] then:
If SPECIALIST MEDICINE please specify**

3a. Is there a local procedure for booking theatre?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

**3b. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:
If YES, was this followed?**

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

4a. How was the booking communicated to theatre? (Please tick all that apply)

- Electronic form Telephone call Anaesthetist bleep Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

4b. To whom was the booking communicated? (Please tick all that apply)

- Theatre coordinator Emergency surgery coordinator
 Supervising anaesthetist Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

5a. In your opinion, was the patient booked under the correct category of urgency?

- Yes No Unknown

5b. If answered "No" to [5a] then:

If NO, what categorisation of urgency should the patient have been booked as?

- Immediate (Immediate life, limb or organ-saving intervention – resuscitation simultaneous with interve
 Urgent (Intervention for acute onset or clinical deterioration of potentially life-threatening conditions, f
 Expedited (Patient requiring early treatment where the condition is not an immediate threat to life, lim
 Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

6a. Were you aware of any delays in booking the case?

- Yes No Unknown

6b. If answered "Yes" to [6a] then:

If YES, what was the reason for the delay? (Please tick all that apply)

- Unable to contact theatre Unable to contact anaesthetist
 Surgical team delay Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

7a. Date of commencement of anaesthetic

- Unknown

7b. Time of commencement of anaesthetic

- Unknown

7c. What was the grade of clinician who performed the procedure?

- 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)
- Advanced nurse practitioner
- Advanced clinical practitioner
- Specialist nurse (Nurse consultant, Nurse practitioner, Clinical nurse specialist)
- Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

7d. What was the specialty of the clinician who performed the procedure?

- General surgery
- Specialist surgery
- Paediatric surgery
- Interventional radiology
- Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

**7e. If answered "Specialist surgery" to [7d] then:
If SPECIALIST SURGERY please specify**

8a. Was there a delay from booking the case to the start of the procedure?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

8b. If answered "Yes" to [8a] then:

If YES, was the urgency of the case escalated to the theatre team?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

8c. If answered "Yes" to [8a] and "Yes" to [8b] then:

If YES, was the theatre escalation process activated?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

8d. If answered "Yes" to [8a] and "Yes" to [8b] and "Yes" to [8c] then:

If YES, what action was taken?: (please tick all that apply)

- Opened additional theatre
- Stopped elective theatre
- None
- Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

9. If the procedure was not undertaken in a stand alone tertiary paediatric centre, was the consultant responsible for the case on a paediatric specialty rota?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown
- Not applicable - undertaken in a stand alone tertiary paediatric centre

K. Post operative care

1a. What was the first ward location of the patient after recovery?

- Paediatric general ward Adult general ward Paediatric surgical ward
 Adult surgical ward Paediatric intensive care Adult intensive care
 Paediatric HDU Adult HDU Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

1b. Please add ward specialty (if applicable)

2a. At any stage during the post-procedure period, was it considered that an upgrade in the level of care was required?

- Yes No Unknown

2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:

If YES, was/did this upgrade in the level of care:

- Provided on-site Required a transfer Unknown

If not listed above, please specify here...

3a. Did the patient suffer any complications during the peri-operative period?

- Yes No Unknown

3b. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

If YES, were the complications managed appropriately?

- Yes No Unknown

3c. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Were any of the complications avoidable?

- Yes No Unknown

3d. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Did any of the complications occur as a result of a delay in access to theatre?

- Yes No Unknown

3e. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Did any of the complications result in a return to theatre?

- Yes No Unknown

3f. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

With the benefit of hindsight, could the complication(s) have been avoided by preoperative action?

- Yes No Unknown

3g. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

With the benefit of hindsight, could the complication(s) have been avoided by active escalation of the procedure?

- Yes No Unknown

1. Could the patient or parents and carers ask for rapid review from a critical care outreach team (24/7) if they had concerns?

Yes

No

Unknown

1. What was the outcome of this admission?

Patient discharged alive

Patient died

Unknown

1a. Was a serious incident declared in this case?

- Yes No Unknown

**1b. If answered "Yes" to [1a] then:
If YES, was this investigated?**

- Yes No Unknown

**1c. If answered "Yes" to [1a] and "Yes" to [1b] then:
If YES, what was the learning?**

1a. In your opinion could the care of this patient have been improved in any way?

Yes

No

Unknown

**1b. If answered "Yes" to [1a] then:
If YES, please give further details**

2a. Was there anything else that led to a delay to this CYP in getting to theatre?

Yes

No

Unknown

**2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:
If YES, please give further details:**

1. Please use this space should you wish to provide further details on any of the answers you have provided (please include the question number)

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