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THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PAEDIATRIC HEALTHCARE AT HOME SERVICE

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Aims The 2012 NHS mandate recommended reduction in the length of stay for inpatients, to improve the care of patients with both long term conditions and those with acute problems. Reference was also made to improving patients' experience of care.

In paediatrics, these visions are most easily realised within ambulatory paediatrics. In April 2014 a pioneering ambulatory care service was established at our hospital, with 'Healthcare at Home' (HAH). The first children's service of its kind, it is a consultant led, nurse delivered model of acute paediatric care. The nurses visit children up to four times a day, to administer medication, perform observations and provide clinical review. The observations and notes are recorded electronically. A daily consultant-led virtual ward round is conducted with the HAH nurses, facilitated by review of the patient's electronic health records. The initial goal was to enable early discharge from hospital, with future aspirations to facilitate admission avoidance with direct admission to HAH from the paediatric emergency department.

Methods Activity data for the first 9 months has been analysed and patient experience feedback has been evaluated.

Results 78 patients have been accepted onto the HAH service to date, giving 815 visits, and saving 389 bed days. 796/815 (97.7%) were for administration of IV medication, with 48% for medications needing to be administered more than once a day. Referrals are increasing, with the majority from the general paediatrics service (90.5%). Orthopaedics, gastroenterology and neurosurgery contribute the remainder. There have been 28 episodes of patients re-attending following transfer to HAH; 22/28 (78.6%) have been due to problems with intravenous access, and 6/28 (21.4%) for clinical review. No patients have required readmission to the hospital. Patient feedback has been excellent with 100% of questionnaire responders saying they would recommend HAH to their friends and relatives.

Conclusion HAH is in its infancy but, thus far, has delivered exemplary clinical care. As stated in the NHS mandate, improving the experience of patients' and their families is essential. The development of a flexible and robust community nursing service, which provides excellent acute clinical care is a proven means of facilitating this.

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THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TEST FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

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Aims The Friends and Family Test (FFT) is currently used nationally in adult acute care settings, and from April 2015 it will be compulsory for all children and young people (or their parents) to be offered the question. Although the guidance suggests wording for younger patients, there is no evidence that it has been rigorously tested with them. Our research therefore

explored children's views of the FFT question including wording, response options and overall design, to propose the most suitable version for children and young people.

Methods A focus group with young patients explored views on patient feedback and different versions of the FFT. This informed the development of several child-friendly versions of the question, differing in wording and style. Eight interviews were conducted with patients at a large acute hospital trust, and their preferred wording and presentation options were incorporated into a final survey form. This was cognitively tested with twelve young patients ranging from four to fifteen years old, to ensure that questions were appropriately worded and interpreted as intended.

Results The adult question phrasing was unpopular: the word "recommend" and the response options "likely" and "unlikely" were problematic and not always understood. The phrase "if they needed similar care or treatment to me" was essential for understanding of the question. A five-scale response scale was recommended over a three-scale option as it ensured that a range of responses were used. Children preferred to feedback using an "agree/disagree" scale, and favoured images of a monkey character over cartoons and easy-read style photos.

Conclusion This research highlights the importance of involving children and young people in the design and wording of questions to ensure that they are appealing and appropriate to them. The question form is currently being piloted with two large acute NHS Trusts using a hand-out methodology with an online option. We encourage healthcare organisations to adopt our format when implementing the FFT for their paediatric patients, since it has been thoroughly tested to ensure that it is suitable for younger populations.

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ARE WE DOING IT RIGHT? COUNSELLING FOR RADIOLOGICAL IMAGING IN NON-ACCIDENTAL INJURY

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Aims Children undergoing radiological investigations for child protection are exposed to radiation. Good communication is vital if the child is to be properly and safely investigated. A requirement of obtaining informed consent for these investigations is to understand and be able to explain the risk / benefit of the procedures. We aim to identify how this is carried out nationwide and discuss attitudes and practice around full informed consent in child protection imaging.

Methods We carried out an online survey of all paediatric doctors in the UK. The survey was advertised in the RCPCH Wales e-bulletin and the RCPCH Health Policy bulletin.

Results From Wales and England, 61 paediatric doctors completed the survey. Of which, 44% of responders were consultants. Consent is taken for radiological imaging by 67%. Verbal consent only is taken by 58%. Only 36% provide information on the radiation exposure caused by the radiological imaging. Despite this, 80% of responders thought it was important to explain the radiation risk of doing such investigations.

Conclusion Although paediatricians consider it important to explain the risk/benefit of radiological procedures for child protection imaging, less than half undertake full written informed consent with fewer consenting for specific radiation exposure risks. Is this reluctance to take full informed consent due to a

fear of not gaining consent, due to a lack of understanding about radiation doses or not knowing how to present this information to parents/carers? We present information on radiation doses from different radiological images and propose a dose counselling model to help doctors overcome these challenges.

G293(P) DOES EVERY CHILD REFERRED TO PAEDIATRIC OUT PATIENTS NEED TO BE SEEN?

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Aims In the UK, the referral rate from primary care to General Paediatrics has drastically increased from 15.5 to 25.7/1000 children per annum¹. A Cochrane review identified that 'local educational interventions involving secondary care specialists and structured referral guidelines are the only interventions shown to negatively impact referral rates'².

This study investigated whether written dialogue with GPs could empower them to appropriately manage potential General Paediatric out patient referrals in the community.

Method A retrospective case note review of 300 referrals which were managed with individualised advice letters rather than out-patient appointments between October 2012 and March 2014 was conducted.

Results All children under the age of 1 were offered outpatient appointments. The distribution of age groups is illustrated in Figure 1. The system based referrals are demonstrated in Table 1.

84% (n = 253) of referrals were managed by a single advice letter. Within this group, only 26% (n = 66) were re directed to more appropriate services. Of the remaining 47 referrals, 38% (n = 18) were offered outpatient appointments after further telephone discussion with the GP; 57% (n = 27) were re referred after the GP received the advice letter. Of the patients offered out patient appointments, 40% (n = 19) were discharged after the initial consultation and 4% (n = 2) did not attend. No adverse outcomes were noted.

Conclusion This study demonstrates that through supporting GP colleagues, selected outpatient referrals can be appropriately managed in the community. In our trust 253 new General Paediatric appointments would represent 41 General Paediatric clinics. However the 'Payment by Result' offers perverse financial incentive to manage more patients in secondary care. If adopted regionally this approach would improve patient care in the

Distribution of Age Groups

Abstract G293(P) Figure 1 Distribution of age groups

Abstract G293(P) Table 1 System based referrals

System	Number (%)
Gastrointestinal	108 (36)
Nephrology/Urology	80 (26.7)
Generally Unwell	25 (8.3)
Neurology	22 (7.3)
Abnormal Results	19 (6.3)
Musculoskeletal	14 (4.8)
Respiratory/ENT	6 (2.0)
Cardiology	6 (2.0)
Puberty	4 (1.3)
Miscellaneous	16 (5.3)

community and free up Consultant time towards consultant delivered acute care.

G294(P) ONLY A QUARTER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS HAVE EVER TAKEN VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENTS

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Aim It has been over a year since the RCPCH circulated interim guidance regarding vitamin D supplements in childhood recommending that breastfed babies from birth and formula fed infants from 6 months should receive vitamin D until 5 years old. Our aim was to assess the percentage of eligible children that take supplements and secondarily vitamin D intake in pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Methods We performed a prospective audit in children presenting to the paediatric assessment unit aged from birth up to 5 years from 20/09/14 for 2 months. We recorded: age, ethnic group, gestational age at birth, breastfeeding history, whether patients have taken or taking vitamin D and the indication for that. We also recorded whether the child belonged to a risk group due to prematurity, neurodisability or gastrointestinal problem and whether the child ever presented with seizures due to vitamin D deficiency.

Secondary outcomes were percentage of women taking vitamin D supplements during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Results We recruited 158 patients with a mean age of 18 months, 57% were males and 33% were either Afrocaribbean or Asian. 15% of the children were at high risk: 13% due to prematurity and 2% due to neurodisability. At the time of the audit only 17% of children were taking vitamin D (image 1) and only 25% had ever taken vitamin D. Of those that were breastfed and less than 6 months 29% were on supplements (image 2); of those older than 6 months only 21% (image 3). Vitamin D was started by parents in 29% and the remaining majority by health professionals. Half of the mothers took vitamin D in pregnancy and only 20% during breastfeeding.

Conclusions Despite the circulation of the RCPCH guidelines to paediatricians only a quarter of children under five have ever been on vitamin D. All health care professionals in primary and