TREATING BIG PEOPLE- REFLECTIONS FROM A MAKING PAEDIATRIC ECG INTERPRETATION IN THE AGE OF 18 PERHAPS THIS IS THE TIME TO BE LEARNING PAEDIATRICIANS MAY BE LOOKING AFTER YOUNG ADULTS VERY MUCH FUTURE PAEDIATRICIANS. WITH IDEALS FOR FUTURE PRACTICE SUGGESTING YEARS CAN IMPROVE NOT ONLY PATIENT CARE BUT WORKING LIVES OF OUR ADULT COLLEAGUES, ESPECIALLY DURING THE TEENAGE TRANSITION.

BACKGROUND

The world has been turned upside down by COVID19. For so many, working lives have changed, roles have been adapted or learnt at lightning speed and working outside your ‘comfort zone’ has become part of the ‘new normal’.

Conversion of a PICU to an adult COVID ITU allowed both adult teams and paediatricians to work closely together and provide a chance to see how each other functions. And invaluably, an opportunity to learn from each other. This reflective piece looks at the key learning points taken from each team.

OBJECTIVES

To highlight the main learning points that were gained from both paediatric and adult teams during conversion of a PICU to an adult COVID ITU. Learning points applicable not only to working during the COVID-19 pandemic but that transcend to other aspects of paediatric and adult medical practice.

METHODS

Reflection from both paediatric and adult medical staff who worked together during the COVID-19 pandemic in a PICU turned adult ITU.

RESULTS

Key themes were found after discussion. Handover, communication with patients and relatives, attachment to patients and teamwork were the main areas where the largest learning points were seen. Upon reflection there were ways in which both the adult and paediatric doctors’ practice had changed and influenced their future practice.

CONCLUSIONS

There is vast amounts of learning that can be taken from joint adult and paediatric working. Not just whilst managing adult COVID ITU patients during a pandemic but practices that can be translated into every day working lives. Perhaps more cross covering and working more closely with our adult colleagues, especially during the teenage transition years can improve not only patient care but working lives of future paediatricians. With ideals for future practice suggesting paediatricians may be looking after young adults very much over the age of 18 perhaps this is the time to be learning from experiences like these and introduce more parallel working between adult and paediatric colleagues.

ASSOCIATION OF PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE

MAKING PAEDIATRIC ECG INTERPRETATION IN THE PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EASIER AND SAFER BY INTRODUCTION OF AN ECG CHECKLIST

Jamie Wood, Karen McLeod, Steven Foster.

1NHS Forth Valley; 2NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

BACKGROUND

The accuracy of reporting electrocardiograms by trainees in paediatric emergency medicine has been shown to increase with experience. However, most paediatric trainees will only spend 3–6 months in the emergency department with limited opportunity to improve skills in electrocardiogram reporting.

Interpretation in the emergency department has been shown to be relatively inaccurate and additional reporting of emergency department electrocardiograms by a consultant paediatric cardiologist increases the diagnostic accuracy. As a result, in many paediatric cardiac units the burden of electrocardiogram reporting is placed on the cardiology team, resulting in a significant workload. In addition, time taken for electrocardiograms to be reviewed by reporting teams may result in delay to clinic referral for patients with electrocardiogram abnormality.

A previous study has shown that even amongst paediatricians, accuracy at interpreting paediatric ECGs is only around 60%. Although, there are accepted normal ranges and values for paediatric electrocardiograms, these are often presented in busy tables that can be complex and daunting to use, especially in a time pressured clinical environment.

We hypothesised that a diagnostic aid, in the form of an electrocardiogram checklist, could assist in electrocardiogram interpretation, helping to screen for electrocardiograms that needed to be reviewed by a cardiologist and reducing the time to cardiology review for patients with electrocardiogram abnormalities.

OBJECTIVES

We set out to assess the use of a simple checklist and guideline to aid interpretation of paediatric electrocardiograms in the paediatric emergency department.

METHODS

An electrocardiogram interpretation checklist and guideline were implemented in the emergency department. Abnormal electrocardiograms identified by the checklist were reviewed by a paediatric cardiologist and patients appointed to a cardiology outpatient clinic. The process was prospectively evaluated over six months to determine the ability of the checklist to detect abnormal electrocardiograms. The emergency department clinicians were sent a questionnaire to evaluate their experience with the checklist.

RESULTS

Between May and November 2018, 600 electrocardiograms were performed in paediatric emergency department. 48 electrocardiograms of patients known to cardiology services or discussed with the on-call team.