Results 5,153 patients attended the PED between March 2020 and May 2020, compared to 11,897 in the corresponding time period in 2019, representing a 56.7% reduction from one year to the next. The largest difference in presentations was seen in May 2020, with a 72% reduction in presentations. Gender and age distribution of children presenting remained consistent between 2020 and 2019, with the majority of children being within the 1–4-year age group. In the 2020 cohort, 38% of patients attending were from a BAME group compared to 45% in 2019. There was a reduction of more than 50% of children presenting with notifiable diseases, gastrointestinal, respiratory, otolaryngology, urological, renal, anaphylaxis/allergy and accidental (trauma, poisoning, foreign body and burns) presentations. The number of children presenting with mental health or safeguarding problems decreased by 39% in 2020 compared to 2019. Infant-specific presentations, along with haematology, oncology and endocrine presentations increased between 2019 and 2020.

Conclusions A significant decrease in PED presentations was seen during the first wave of the pandemic. This reduction was possibly caused by patient, parental and carer fears of attending hospitals at the height of the pandemic. Alternatively, it may have been caused by an increased ability of parents to manage certain conditions at home. Furthermore, the reduction in some presentations may have reflected a true reduction in infectious diseases due to social distancing measures. Similarly, the reduction in trauma and accidental injury may have reflected a true reduction due to stay at home rules. Future implications of this study are to further understand why the reduction in PED presentations was seen and if this trend was also present in further waves of the pandemic in the UK. Additionally, this work will help inform resource allocation during subsequent outbreaks.

British Association of General Paediatrics

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ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT OF CHILDREN IN REMOTE PAEDIATRIC OUTPATIENT CLINICS

¹Hemandas Hemandas, ¹Afraa Al-Sabbagh, ²Hemant Bhavsar. ¹Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; ²Leicester Royal Infirmary

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Background COVID-19 caused unprecedented changes in the way outpatient health care services are delivered throughout the world. The need to reduce transmission meant many services changed from face-to-face consultations to remote consultations, utilizing video or telephone technology. In face-to-face consultation, there are many non-verbal cues that are lost in remote consultation. In the paediatric age group, this part of the consultation is an essential component of a complete consultation. The lack of face-to-face service has led to concerns that children are not attending paediatric remote consultations with parents.

Objectives Evaluate the presence or involvement of paediatric patients in remote consultations.

Methods We reviewed all clinic letters on the computer system used in Peterborough City Hospital, e-Track, for the months September to October 2020. We read the letters and

Abstract 1529 Table 1 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria

- Clinics taken place in the paediatric Rainforest outpatient department at Peterborough City Hospital
- Children aged from 6 to 16 years

Exclusion criteria

- Children younger than 5 years
- All face-to-face clinics.
- Physiotherapy, dietician and psychological clinics
- Oncology medicine clinics

confirmed any presence of the child during the consultation. Table 1 illustrates inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Results A total of 690 letters were reviewed that met the inclusion criteria. 182 (26.37%) were video consultations and 508 (73.76%) were telephone consultations [figure 1]. The male: female ratio was almost equal to 1.09:1.

Of the 690 consultations, in 278 (40.27%) children were present, in 37 (5.36%) the children were at school and in 375 (54.34%), the majority, it was not documented about the presence of the child or any discussion with them [figure 2].

In those consultations in which children were present, 123 (44.24%) were video consultations and 155 (55.75%) were telephone consultations [figure 3].

Of the 182 total video consultations, in 123 (67.58%) consultations children were present. On the other hand, of the 508 telephone consultations, only 155 (30.5%) had children present during the consultation [figure 4].

Conclusions Remote consultations are not without drawbacks. A specific setting is required for a good remote consultation. This can lead to diagnostic difficulty or ambiguity and one should be more vigilant for safeguarding issues. In telephone consultations, there is a lack of inspection or visual assessment. In our study, we found that in more than half of the consultations, there was no clear documentation about the presence of the child or about the involvement of the child during paediatric remote clinics. This is an important missing element of the consultation that may further compound the issues described.

The use of remote consultations will need careful planning, audit and standardized guidance from societies and royal colleges depending on the type of paediatric service, age of the patient, clinical subspecialty and new vs. follow up clinics to ensure a safe service.

International Child Health Group

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'SAFETY OF TOYS: AN UNMET NEED IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY' INQUIRY INTO SAFETY OF TOYS AND PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE ON TOY SAFETY IN SRI LANKA

¹Ruwanthi Perera, ²Piyumaka Peiris, ³Kavee Perera, ⁴Duleni Gunaratne, ⁵Kishani Jayasekera, ²Madushika Dewasurendra, ⁵Ishani Medhanika, ⁶Malithi Guruge. ¹University of Sri Jayewardenepura; ²University of Sri Jayewardenepura; ³University of Monash; ⁴University of Birmingham; ⁵University of Sri Jayewardenepura; ⁶Colombo South Teaching Hospital

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Background Toys are a part and parcel of a child's life and are often inseparable from a child. They are of utmost