Background Hearing loss from glue ear affects ~1 in 10 children starting school in UK/Europe. Of all children globally with a hearing loss, fewer than 10% of children have access to hearing aids: affordable solutions are needed. Studies showed children with OME hear better with bone conducting headsets. During COVID-19 we investigated whether children showed children with OME hear better with bone conducting headsets. During COVID-19 we investigated whether children had hearing supported at home and on a grommet waiting list.

Methods Starting July 2020, during COVID-19, children aged 3–11 years with OME and grommet waiting list were invited to a free managed hearing support. They received the kit, instructions and a mobile app by post. By 3 weeks parents were asked to charge and pair the devices, attend a remote consultation and complete an OMQ-14 questionnaire. Remote follow-up lasted 3 months.

Results 822% (26 children) of those waiting for grommet operation list at the time of first lockdown in 2020 joined the study.

Children experienced more challenging listening situations during the pandemic with remote learning, social distancing and masks obscuring lip reading.

Families and the children felt empowered to manage their child’s condition at home and school.

Conclusions Ethnic minority groups, socio-economic deprivation, males aged 1 to 4 years are identified as high-risk factors for iron deficiency in the population presenting to the local health care settings. Also, HB and MCV tends to fall at very low levels of serum ferritin. Iron deficiency anaemia occurs at later stages of iron deficiency and therefore, ID should be considered in any child with above-mentioned high-risk factors, presenting to health care settings with non-specific symptoms.

Association of Paediatric Emergency Medicine

Background Research during 2020 suggests UK Paediatric Emergency Department (PED) attendances dropped by 30% at the start of the first National Lockdown (March 2020). Our PED (28,000 attendances (2019) vs 21,000 attendances (2020)) saw a similar drop in attendances but anecdotally noted babies under 1 month increased. Throughout 2020 many healthcare providers (including General practitioners (GP), Health Visitors (HV) and midwives) moved from routine face to face (F2F) to telephone (T2T) to virtual contact, plus