Severe or life-threatening acute illness or injury

Preventive care e.g. immunizations and development checks
First contact care for chronic and non life-threatening acute illness

GP can urgently refer acutely unwell child to A&E if concerned

If well, discharged to routine GP care

If no need for further specialist input, discharged to care of GP

GP or paediatric specialist can arrange elective admission e.g. hernia repair

If child requires further specialist input, follow-up in specialist clinic

Referral for (sub)specialist paediatric outpatient appointment e.g. suspected developmental delay

If unwell, emergency admission

Figure 1 – Structure of NHS services in England for children aged 0-14 years (simplified)