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| **Cover page** | |
| **Document type** | Best Practice Principles, Pathway, Triage Questionnaire and Nurse Led Proforma |
| **Document name** | Preassessment Bundle |
| **Document location** | STPN website |
| **Document target audience** | All tertiary specialist centre & District General Hospital (DGH) staff involved in the preparation of children for surgery |
| **Document target patient group** | Children (under 16yrs)\* undergoing surgery, or a procedure, or an investigation under anaesthetic. \*Up to 18yrs for children and young people with complex needs |
| **Summary** | Preassessment of children and young people prior to surgery and an anaesthetic improves patient safety, promotes efficiency and improves the patient experience. The document bundle set out best practise guidance for paediatric preassessment, the pathway for preassessment, a triage questionnaire to appropriately tailor the preassessment to meet each child or young person’s needs and a proforma for nurse led assessment. |
| **Reason for development** | Newly published preassessment guidance from the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland in 2022. Preassessment services in paediatrics are not as developed as they are in adult services, despite the need for psychological preparation being greater in children. The STPN would like to achieve equitable access to preassessment services for children across the network, and ensure that they meet the standards set. |
| **Version** | 1 |
| **Effective from** | February 2023 |
| **Review date** | February 2024 |
| **Owner** | STPN SIC ODN team |
| **Authors** | STPN SIC ODN team, Shyamala Moganasundram (ELCH), Samantha Black (Medway), Natalie Oliver-Hendy (East Kent Hospitals Trust), Lynne Mould (University Hospitals Sussex) |
| **Consultation provided by** | Asme Sheikh (KCH), Elaine Monahan and Elizabeth O’Donohoe (SGH), Keith O’Toole (ASPH), Susy Logan (Lewisham and Greenwich) |
| **Approved by and date** | STPN Preassessment Task and Finish Group January 2023 |
| **Related documents** | https://www.apagbi.org.uk/guidelines and any locally agreed policies which should be followed at all times by local clinical teams. |
| **Document Benefits** | |
| **Key Improvements / Benefits** | Reduce variation in the quality of preassessment for children. Properly define the time required for high quality preassessment for consultants and nurses in their job plans. Improve patient safety, improve efficiency in paediatric surgical services, support delivery of care close to home, ensure children are optimised prior to surgery, and that they receive psychological preparation. |
| **Project Evaluation** | |
| **Evaluation** | Review local implementation of preassessment best practise guidance with providers or through the governance forum. |
| **Implementation / Recommendations: Next Steps** | |
| **Step 1** | Share with the STPN Governance Forum |
| **Step 2** | STPN to create a tool kit to develop preassessment services, as well as these documents, the tool kit will include; a case for change, operational support, ideas around provision of psychological preparation |

