

Document Conception	
Document type	Best Practice Recommendations
Document name	<p>An Individualised Perioperative Pathway This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualised Perioperative Pathway- Network Recommendations • Paediatric Anaesthetic Anxiety Pathway • Anaesthesia and Theatres - 'All About Me' Day Surgery Passport • Surgical Site marking form
Document Audience	All tertiary and secondary centre staff involved in the pathways for children undergoing any procedure under general anaesthetic.
Summary	The paediatric population that utilise elective surgical services are becoming more complex, with up to 1 in 5 children or young people having a neurodevelopmental, learning, or behaviour need. Also, anxiety is a prominent issue in children and young people facing an anaesthetic. With the right support and input, these children can cope with the unfamiliar environment of hospital, even the fast-paced nature of elective day surgery hubs. The document provides a reference for what is considered best practice across the South Thames region.
Reason for development	<p>The children utilising elective surgery services frequently present with a neurodevelopmental, learning, or behaviour need, such as Autism or ADHD. They often need additional support to cope with the elective surgery process and adjustments to process.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments are required by law- We have a duty to make adjustments for a person, as part of the legislation that makes up the Equality Act, 2010</p> <p>By health care professionals following the simple steps in the recommendations, the patient experience can be significantly better, which will also positively impact on future interactions with health care providers.</p> <p>The recommendations support health care professionals to be able to meet children's needs and feel positive work satisfaction, as well as support them to maintain an efficient elective surgery service. This is critical with the large backlog of paediatric patients on admitted waiting lists.</p> <p>Anxiety is a prominent issue in children and young people facing an anaesthetic, assessment of the anxiety and appropriate information giving and planning is key.</p>
Document Benefits	
Key Improvements / Benefits	<p>Children with neurodevelopmental, learning, or behaviour needs are provided with a tailored experience of preassessment and surgery, which will enhance their safety and improve their experience of care. The wider family will also be advantaged by a well-planned and implemented surgical experience. Potentially it could improve health outcomes.</p> <p>Efficiency is maintained within fast paced children's surgical environments, such as a Day Surgery Hub. The needs of one child don't supersede the needs of other children, by providing all children with the support they require.</p> <p>Health care professionals managing children with additional needs will experience greater job satisfaction, by managing less resistance to required hospital processes.</p> <p>Children, young people and families will be prepared for their day of surgery and experience less anxiety</p>
Project Evaluation	
Evaluation	<p>% of hospitals implementing the recommendations</p> <p>An improvement of on the day cancellations</p> <p>Anxiety scoring before and after implementation of the recommendations within preassessment</p> <p>Parent and patient reported experience measures</p> <p>Staff reported experience</p>
Implementation / Recommendations: Next Steps	
<p>Overview: In order for the implementation of these recommendations to be successful across the whole network we need to ensure they are circulated widely, to ensure all clinical staff caring for children and young people undergoing procedures under anaesthetic are familiar with the agreed standards to be following. The Network will provide support through</p>	

education and training to all centres. And targeted support is available for those Trusts who are experiencing difficulty meeting the expected standards. Review of current processes and repeating the process each year will allow us to ensure the principles are having the intended outcomes.	
Step 1	Each Trust should align local guidelines with the recommendations set out in this document.
Step 2	STPN support communication of the recommendations, and support trusts to collate the impact that implementation can achieve
Step 3	STPN has identified and planned for training and workforce needs
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