



Centre for  
Perioperative Care

# Newsletter

## *Paediatric Edition*

In collaboration with the APAGBI



Welcome to the October 2021 paediatric edition of the CPOC Newsletter,

The newsletter has been written in collaboration with the [Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland \(APAGBI\)](#).

Please view our [COVID-19 page](#) for links to guidance from all our partner organisations and others.

[Visit the CPOC COVID-19 page](#)

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**"The overarching principle for children's surgery is that children are treated safely, as close to home as possible, in an environment that is suitable to their needs."**

[The Royal College of Surgeons of England. Ensuring the Provision of General Paediatric Surgery in the District General Hospital](#)



Despite the fact that the majority of paediatric surgery occurs in fit and well children having day case procedures, many families still find themselves transferred to busy tertiary centres, miles from their support networks. Development of paediatric preassessment is the cornerstone of facilitating change.

At our District General Hospitals we have developed pathways with dedicated staff and time for paediatric preassessment. This has allowed us to facilitate children's surgery locally, reducing on the day cancellation. It has allowed us to identify and optimize medical challenges early, avoiding unnecessary transfers and freed up space in tertiary care for children with complex needs. It has also allowed us to develop services for airway assessment and infant hernias, delivered safely, close to children's homes, without the need for transfer.

***Dr Samantha Black, Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist, Medway NHS Foundation Trust.***

***Dr Amy Norrington, Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist, South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.***

### APAGBI Resources



#### Perioperative Medicine in Action Course (Free)

Explore perioperative medicine and how you can improve care for the high risk surgical patient



[Find out more and register](#)

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## Paediatric Anaemia

There is growing evidence of adverse perioperative outcomes in neonatal and paediatric patients undergoing surgical procedures with preoperative anaemia. There are a high rates of anaemia, higher odds of requiring a blood transfusion and increased mortality in the anaemic patients.

There are UK and Australian guidelines which include perioperative management of paediatric patients undergoing surgery at risk of bleeding and transfusion.

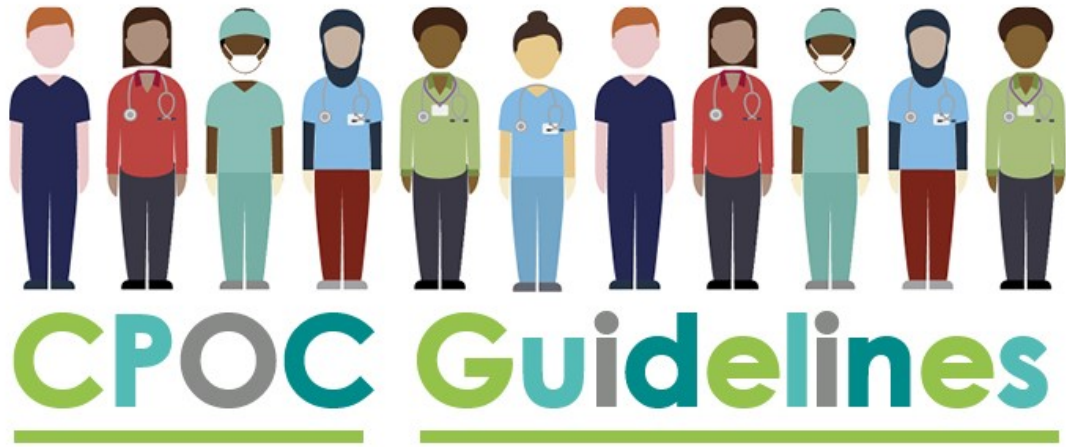
As preventative medicine is becoming routine in preoperative care, it is worthwhile noting the potential association between iron deficiency in childhood and long-term adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes.

**NHS BT will be running a National Comparative audit (NCA) of Paediatric perioperative Patient blood Management (PBM) in 2022. Please contact NHS BT NCA if your centre would like to take part.**

[Contact NHS BT NCA to take part](#)

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CPOC has convened a working group to develop the '**Guideline for the Management of Anaemia in the Perioperative Pathway**.' The scope of the guideline will cover all ages including paediatric patients and it will include recommendations for each part of the perioperative pathway for all members of the multidisciplinary team.

The guideline will be published in 2022.

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## Preoperative childhood obesity

The [PErioperAtive Childhood obesity \(PEACHY\)](#) study published in the BJA this month showed that 1 in 4 children undergoing general anaesthesia are overweight and obese. As perioperative care providers, do we have a wider public health responsibility to promote healthy lifestyles? The perioperative period represents a missed opportunity to help address the burden of childhood obesity. By using this teachable moment, we can help make every contact count, taking advantage of longer surgical waiting times following the pandemic for preoperative optimisation.

Sheffield Children's Hospital have developed a multidisciplinary preoperative obesity pathway



incorporating a discussion around anaesthetic risk, comorbidity screening and referral for support on sleep, diet and physical activity. Locally, this has raised awareness of obesity and its associated health risks. This approach also challenges the traditional speciality silo view with more joined-up thinking, building networks with GP's, community initiatives and schools.

**Dr Zoë Burton, Consultant Anaesthetist, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust**



## PERIOPERATIVE JOURNAL WATCH

**See which articles on perioperative care have caught our attention.  
Recently added articles cover topics such as;**

1. Associations of clinical frailty with severity of limb threat and outcomes in chronic limb-threatening ischaemia
2. Timing of Surgery following SARS-CoV-2 infection: an international prospective cohort study
3. The Effect of Orthostatic Hypotension Detected Pre-Operatively on Post-Operative Outcome

[View the CPOC Journal Watch](#)

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