Improving the Safety of Emergency Paediatric Anaesthesia in the Resuscitation Room

Dr C Srinivasan, Dr L Herrieven

Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Hospitals Trust

christopher.srinivasan@hey.nhs.uk

Emergency anaesthesia outside of theatre is recognised to carry a higher risk of complications and death, compared to the relatively controlled environment of an anaesthetic room. Additional challenges posed in the paediatric population include; low exposure to children requiring advanced airway management, staff less familiar with equipment and drugs, presentation out of hours, the need to size equipment based upon age/weight and the psychological stressors of caring for acutely sick children.

NAP 4 recommends that preparedness, planning, communication, situation awareness and knowledge of when to stop or change plans, is crucial in high quality paediatric airway management. One recommendation was that a checklist should be used for all emergency department intubations. Following the successful implementation of an adult ‘Emergency Department Rapid Sequence Induction Shadowboard-Checklist’, a paediatric specific version was developed to include drugs and an airway sizing chart, which serve as an aide memoire for the intubating team. The shadowboard serves as a “kit dump” with missing equipment being easily identified and the final item on the checklist is a vocalised plan in the event of difficult laryngoscopy.

The current version is being piloted with quantitative and qualitative analysis. It is printed on “Never Tear (Xerox)” which is a water resistant printable media in white polyester which adheres to the Infection Control Policy.

Figure 1- Emergency anaesthesia tool showing drug aide memoire, shadowboard/checklist and airway sizing chart (left to right)