Information for GPs regarding transfer of Paediatric Surgery to Sheffield Children’s Hospital (SCH)

Dear GP Practice/Primary Care provider/OOH providers

From Thursday 16th April urgent surgery on children (under the age of 16 years) in the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw area will take place at Sheffield Children’s Hospital rather than the local District General Hospitals including Barnsley, Doncaster, Chesterfield and Rotherham.

This is with the exception of time-critical surgery that will remain at local District General Hospitals e.g. testicular torsion and blocked airway.

This is part of the COVID-19 response, due to the expectation that DGH anesthetists who provide care for unwell children will be actively involved with treatment of severely unwell patients suffering from COVID-19.

Anybody from within the primary care team who may need to admit a child with a probable (non-time critical) surgical condition (including appendicitis and bone fracture) is instructed to telephone Sheffield Children’s switchboard on 0114 2717000 and ask for the relevant specialty registrar – see details and supporting guidance information over leaf.

If a patient needs to travel to Sheffield Children’s for surgery and does not have their own transport Sheffield Children’s switchboard (0114 271 7000) will order them a taxi, please make this request when you speak to them. (Please note that this is a temporary arrangement and we will be exploring other options for providing patient transport over the coming days; we will update these details with you as required.]

Some taxi companies are currently unwilling to transfer covid-positive patients. In this case, please discuss with Sheffield Children’s switchboard how to organise Patient Transport Services for them.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Jason Page

MBBS BSc

jason.page1@nhs.net

Partner Thorpe Hesley Surgery

Clinical Director SY&B Lung Checks Program

Vice Chair Rotherham CCG

Lead for Cancer, Children, Maternity, Governance, Finance and Continuing Health Care

Rotherham Macmillan GP

On behalf of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Covid-19 Strategic Health Coordinating Group

**ACUTE ABDOMINAL PAIN SURGICAL RED FLAGS**

|  |
| --- |
| **Any child or young person experiencing or showing signs of severe abdominal pain (guarding, generalised or localised rebound tenderness and/or abnormal bowel sounds) and not responding to simple analgesia should be urgently transferred to Sheffield Children’s Hospital.** **Please call Sheffield Children’s Hospital on 0114 271 7000 requesting the Surgical Registrar in the Paediatric Surgical Unit**  |
| **In addition, any child or young person experiencing abdominal pain and any one of the following red flags below requires transfer to Sheffield Children’s Hospital:** |
| **Fever**  | **Yes / No** |
| **Bile-stained vomiting** | **Yes / No** |
| **Any blood in vomit or stools** | **Yes / No** |
| **History of recent significant abdominal trauma**  | **Yes / No** |
| **History if recent abdominal surgery** | **Yes / No** |
| **Irreducible hernia**  | **Yes / No** |
|  |

**ORTHOPEDICS AND TRAUMA SURGICAL RED FLAGS**

|  |
| --- |
| Children and young people with bone fractures that require emergency surgery should be sent to Sheffield Children’s Hospital. Fractures requiring surgery would include:  |
| Badly deformed limb(s)  | **Yes / No** |
| Please call Sheffield Children’s Hospital on 0114 271 7000 requesting the Surgical Registrar in Trauma and Orthopaedics if you have any questions |

**ACUTE SCROTUM SURGICAL RED FLAGS**

|  |
| --- |
| Any child or young person experiencing a sudden onset of scrotal pain and swollen tender testis, groin pain and no relief/ increase of pain after lifting testicle (other symptoms may include nausea and vomiting) requires urgent transfer to the nearest hospital, with the exception of: |
| Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital | **24/7 all patients should be transferred to Sheffield Children’s Hospital** (as per pre covid arrangements) |
| Barnsley Hospital Foundation Trust | **From 5pm Friday – 8am Monday all children should be transferred to Sheffield Children’s Hospital** (as per pre covid arrangements) |
| Please call Sheffield Children’s Hospital on 0114 271 7000 requesting the Surgical Registrar in the Paediatric Surgical Unit  |