



APAGBI
Association of
Paediatric Anaesthetists
of Great Britain & Ireland

APAGBI BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Preparation and Management of Children and Young People (CYP) with individual needs requiring Surgery or Procedures

Up to 1 in 5 children and young people referred for surgery or procedures have individual needs
(behavioural, learning or communication)

Children and young people with individual needs experience:

- **More anxiety**
- **More negative healthcare experiences**
- **Higher risks** before during and after procedures

Healthcare outcomes are worse for patients with individual needs compared with the general population

Every child and young person should expect equitable access to healthcare that is designed to meet their individual needs

Children and Young people are **individuals** not a diagnosis

Reasonable adaptations should be standard practice

Shared planning and decision making with CYP and carers

Consistency, predictability, choice and autonomy

SERVICE DESIGN AND LEADERSHIP

- Designated medical and nursing leads
- **Multidisciplinary** working
- Autism and learning disability champions
- **Flexible, inclusive pathways** designed around CYP
- **Longer appointment times**, flexible list ordering and admission and discharge processes.
- Maintain **communication** with CYP and carers
- Minimise waiting times

GETTING THE ENVIRONMENT RIGHT

- **Reduce sensory overload**
- **Calm, quiet** spaces
- Clear signage and quiet routes
- **Sensory support**
- Reduce noise and clutter
- **Accessibility**
- Distraction

PREOPERATIVE CARE AND PREPARATION

- **Early identification and risk assessment**
- **Listen** and understand individual needs
- **Individual care plans**
- Provide information in accessible formats
- Hospital visits

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Staff should be trained in:

- Communication
- Anxiety management
- Learning disabilities, ADHD and Autism
- Reasonable adaptations
- Consent
- Distraction and Sensory care

Individual care plans should be the norm, not the exception

SCAN HERE to Download Guidance

