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PAN LONDON PAEDIATRIC TRAUMA GUIDELINES

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Introduction and Aims

The London Major Trauma System (LMTS) consists of 4 Networks, each with a Major Trauma Centre (MTC) at its hub with Trauma Units (TU's) feeding into the MTC's.

Pathways exist within the London Major Trauma System to ensure that care is delivered equally, irrespective of location of injury. This includes specialist pre-hospital triage tools and automatic acceptance policies of acutely injured patients at each MTC. Within the MTC's and TU's, guidelines may exist to explain the operation of such pathways. However these may not be easily accessible to busy clinicians or rotating trainees. This information is crucial for the rapid investigation and management of the acutely injury child.

Despite the establishment of the Pan London Major Trauma System and sophisticated ambulance triage tools, evidence exists that up to 50% of children with significant trauma still present to trauma units and local emergency departments rather than Major Trauma Centres. Injury/trauma is still the leading cause of death in children.

Methods

As a paediatric trauma anaesthetic fellow, I led on the development of a collaborative paediatric trauma guideline for the London Major Trauma System. The intention was to create a trauma manual, the body of which would provide systems based guidance in the provision of care for acutely ill children, whilst incorporating guidelines from larger bodies including NICE, BOA, RCOA, RCR, CEM and ATLS. Additional information was also provided on pathways of pain management relevant to trauma, safeguarding for all ages and more diverse issues such as paediatric major incident pathways.

Results

The completed manual provides an overview of paediatric trauma management with agreed gold standards of practice across the LMTS. It has been peer reviewed by key stakeholders working in paediatric trauma care from each of the four trauma networks and reviewed by the London Operational Delivery Network steering group. It is due for launch in February 2020.

Discussion and conclusion

Acute injury in children is much less common than in adults. As a consequence, it can be challenging for teams managing differences in physiology, equipment and monitoring in this diverse group. The launch of the Pan London Paediatric Trauma manual with combined guidelines and processes of management will undoubtedly support clinicians across the LMTS, in particular the management of time critical, severely injured children. The guidelines aim to improve all aspects of care from recognition of severe injury to clinical management and outcome, all of which enhance patient and family experience.

Reference:

1) London Major Trauma System: Available at URL: [<http://www.c4ts.qmul.ac.uk/London-trauma-system/london-trauma-system-map>] accessed 1/2/2010.