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THE NORTH THAMES PAEDIATRIC NETWORK STOPP (SAFE TRANSFER OF PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS) TOOL

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Introduction & Aims:

Specialist paediatric retrieval services perform transfers by well-trained teams utilising protocolised risk-assessment prior to moving any child(1,2,3). The North Thames Paediatric Network (NTPN) recognised that paediatric transfers undertaken by local teams in our region did not undergo this same standardised approach and during a listening campaign led by the North East London Paediatric Critical Care Network (NELPCCN) Safe Transfer Workstream Committee, PCC Level 2 and Time-Critical transfers were identified as being a particular concern amongst staff; these transfers felt "risky", difficult to organise in a timely manner and occasionally led to inappropriate personnel leading the transfer.

The NTPN STOPP (Safe Transfer of Paediatric Patients) Tool was developed; directly adapted from the Thames Valley & Wessex PCC Network STOPP Tool(4). The STOPP Tool is a communication and triage tool; recommending safe staffing levels and providing prompts/checklists for documentation and equipment required.

NTPN aims to ensure that all children who require a transfer that cannot be undertaken by a specialist retrieval team, are subject to risk assessment and the transfer is performed by appropriate teams with correct knowledge, skills and equipment.

Methods:

A multidisciplinary NELPCCN Safe Transfer Workstream was organised; feedback was sought through several cycles on how the STOPP Tool could be adapted for the North Thames region. We worked collaboratively with a number of stakeholders including Children's Acute Transport Service (CATS), London Ambulance Service (LAS) and Barts NHS Trust Patient Transport Services (PTS) for expert advice.

In addition a standardised transfer bag has been identified and a STOPP Tool Training Package which consists of a series of lectures, skills stations and simulation sessions has been developed, with input from CATS, LAS and the North Central/East Adult Critical Care Network.

Results:

The NTPN STOPP Tool is now available on the CATS website (http://site.cats.nhs.uk/in-a-hurry/stopp/).

A STOPP Standard Operating Procedure has been written and due to be circulated to 27 NHS Trusts within NTPN in the near future.

In October 2019, we ran a pilot course for the STOPP Tool Training Package; a second pilot is planned for April 2020 following feedback.

Data will be collected using local governance reporting and a Harm Review Process that has been developed by NTPM members at Basildon & Thurrock NHS Trust. We are hoping to see a reduction in the number of Serious Incidents related to paediatric patient transfers

Discussion & Conclusion:

The STOPP Tool project has been a multi-agency and collaborative project with numerous cycles for feedback and improvement; we expect that this should continue as we further develop the tool and ensure its efficient use. We are now aiming to raise the profile of the tool across NTPN, launch our Training Package in 2020 and await data.

References:

1.   Paediatric Intensive Care Society (PICS) Standards https://picsociety.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/PICS_standards_2015.pdf

2.   NHS England (NHSE) Paediatric Intensive Care Retrieval Transport Service Review https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/01/e07-spec-paedi-intens-care-retrvl-transp.pdf

3.   Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) Time to Move on https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-07/high_dependency_care_for_children_-_time_to_move_on.pdf

4.   Thames Valley & Wessex STOPP Tool https://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/thames-valley-wessex-paediatric-critical-care-odn/documents/reference-documents/thames-valley-wessex-inter-hospital-transfer-form/view