

Improving Accessibility of Paediatric Airway Equipment in Resus

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Problem

- Appropriate paediatric airway equipment difficult to find in resuscitation area in A+E
- Non-comprehensive stock of various sizes
- Operating department practitioners (ODPs) feeling low confidence in being able to find necessary paediatric equipment in an emergency, and restocking requirements

Intervention

- Created dedicated paediatric airway box with stocklist for resus
- Informed ODPs and anaesthetists locally of box availability and contents

Measurement

- Online survey sent to ODPs in the hospital
 - Gauging confidence in finding paediatric airway equipment before and after introduction of the box
 - Assess frequency of using inappropriately sized airway equipment

Results

- Confidence levels in finding equipment grew from 75% to 92% on average after box
- 33% of responders used inappropriately sized equipment on at least one occasion before box
- Following the box, zero responders have since used inappropriate sized airway equipment

Reflection

- Greater confidence and ability to find appropriately sized paediatric airway equipment
- Potential decreased risk of mouth/upper airway tract injury, difficult airway scenarios (e.g. due to inappropriate laryngoscope blade size) [1]
- Potential need for dedicated paediatric airway trolley

