

# CHARITY SUPPORT FOR A PAEDIATRIC DIFFICULT AIRWAY TROLLEY

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## BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

- 13 paediatric cases documented in NAP 4.
- NAP 4 suggested that advanced paediatric airway equipment should be rapidly and readily available.
- Reinforced by the standards required for anaesthetic departments to accredit with ACSA.
- Nottingham Children's Hospital is a large medical and surgical tertiary referral centre.
- Also houses the paediatric major trauma centre.
- Varied workload, with multiple, often remote, areas around the trust where anaesthesia is delivered.
- The majority of airway equipment was found in anaesthetic rooms and ED, but not in a standardized and quickly portable layout.

## LESSONS LEARNT

- Valuable lessons learnt include:
  - the appreciation of NHS funding limits
  - an insight into the processes required for the procurement of equipment
  - the length of time processes take
  - the need for robust business cases to support additional investment.
- It has reinforced the benefits of collaborative working to achieve a common goal, with each team member empowered to drive change.
- It has been an exercise in leadership and proactivity.

## STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

- A multidisciplinary working party was formed.
- Consensus sought as to what equipment to include.
- Stock was funded from theatre budgets.
- An application was made to the NUH Charity to cover the cost of 6 paediatric difficult airway trolleys (DAT).
- The application focused on:
  - the benefits of standardisation
  - the mobile nature of the resource
  - the pre-existing familiarity of staff with a DAT format from use in adult practice
- The application was supported by the Department of Anaesthesia.
- 6 paediatric DATs were ordered, stocked and introduced.
- Training and information was cascaded to staff regarding their use and contents.



## MEASURES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Feedback from users of the DAT has been positive.
- Benefits include:
  - reduction in delays when requesting equipment
  - the ability to bring the trolley to the area in need
  - the instantly recognisable and useable layout of a DAT.
- The paediatric DAT is now an accepted tool in the management of paediatric difficult airways and its frequent use attests to this.

## MESSAGES FOR OTHERS

- Pressure on NHS funds is an ongoing issue.
- Increasing need to fund ongoing service improvements via alternative channels.
- Charity funding is a limited resource - applications need to demonstrate a clear clinical need and potential benefit to patients.
- Working within a team is key to success, as it may be difficult to drive improvements forward without departmental support.