

A Southwest Network Audit of Pre-Operative Assessment Services for Children and Young People

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Paediatric peri-operative medicine is an evolving speciality. There is a paucity of standards and published recommendations for the provision of paediatric pre-operative assessment. The Royal College of Anaesthetists recommend that children should attend a nurse led preoperative assessment clinic [1].

We undertook 4 surveys across 8 sites in the South West of England between September 2019 and February 2020 to assess the provision of pre-operative assessment services for children and young people.

Methods

Survey 1: Local Paediatric leads were questioned on the provision of paediatric pre-operative assessment services.

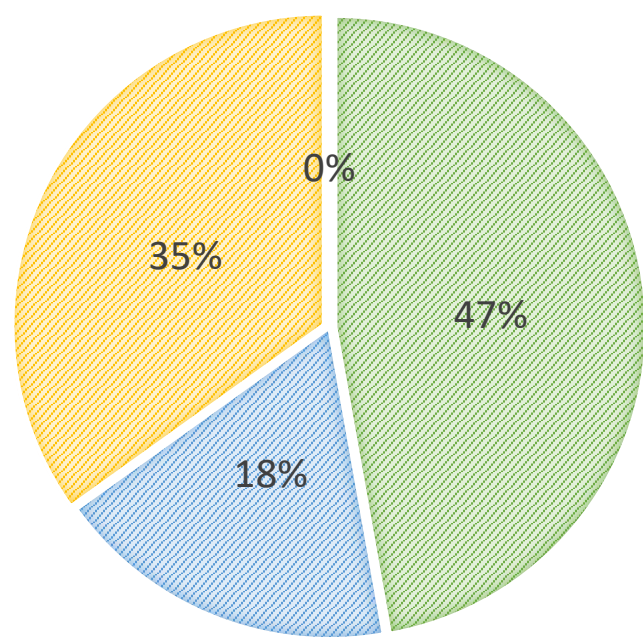
Survey 2: Pre-operative nurses completed a questionnaire for children that they assessed regarding the clinic type and clinical outcome.

Survey 3: Parents completed a questionnaire on the day of surgery focussing on their and their child's experience of pre-operative assessment. Data collected with a 5 point Likert scale.

Survey 4: Anaesthetists completed a questionnaire before each list. Questions focussed on issues with paediatric patients and their impact on efficiency of the list.

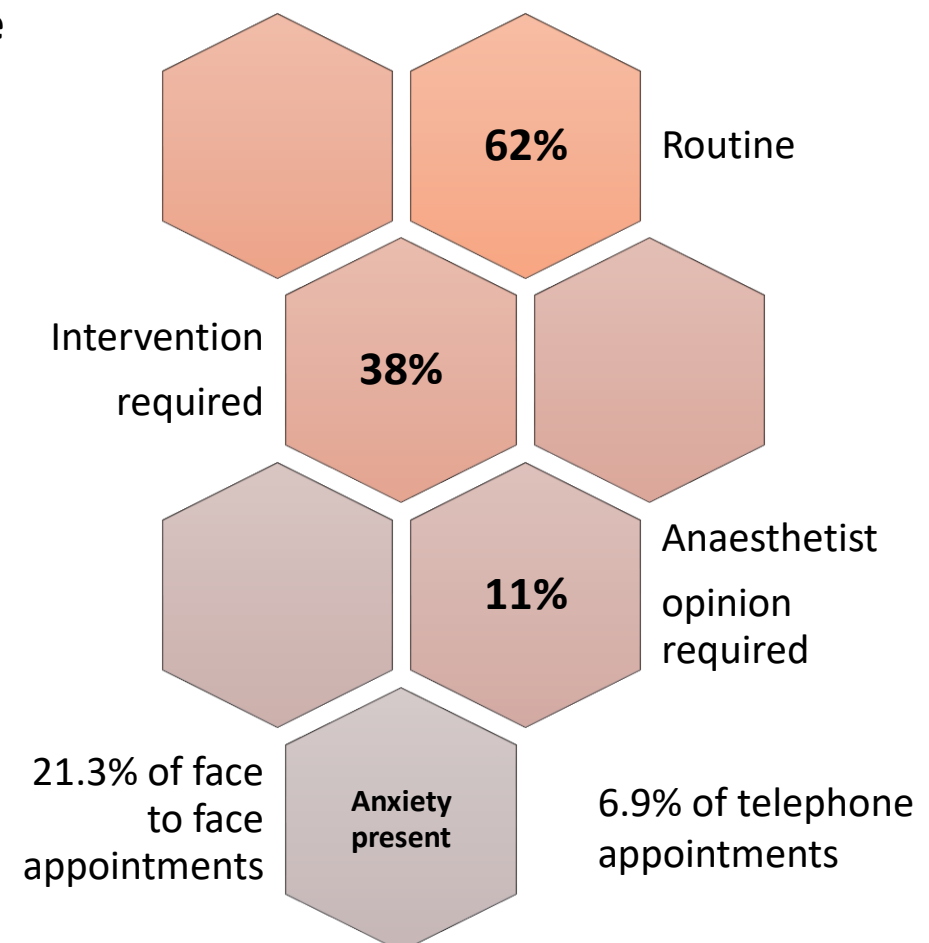
Modality of clinic service

- Nurse Led Clinic
- Nurse & Doctor delivered clinic
- Telephone
- Video



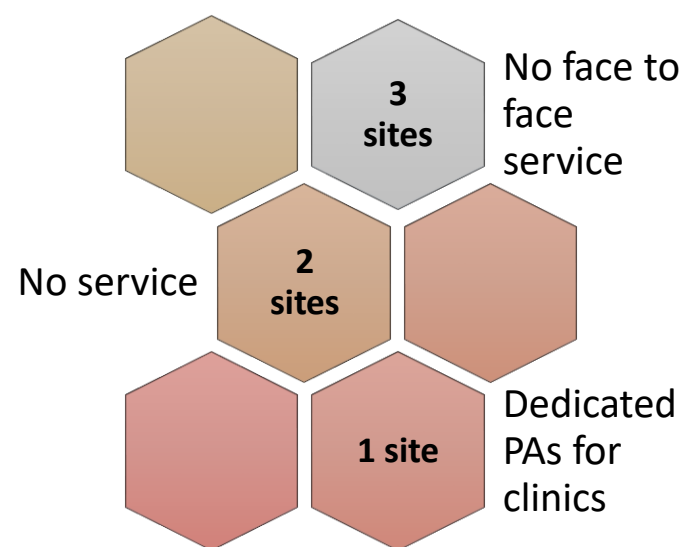
Survey 2; 413 responses

Clinic Outcome



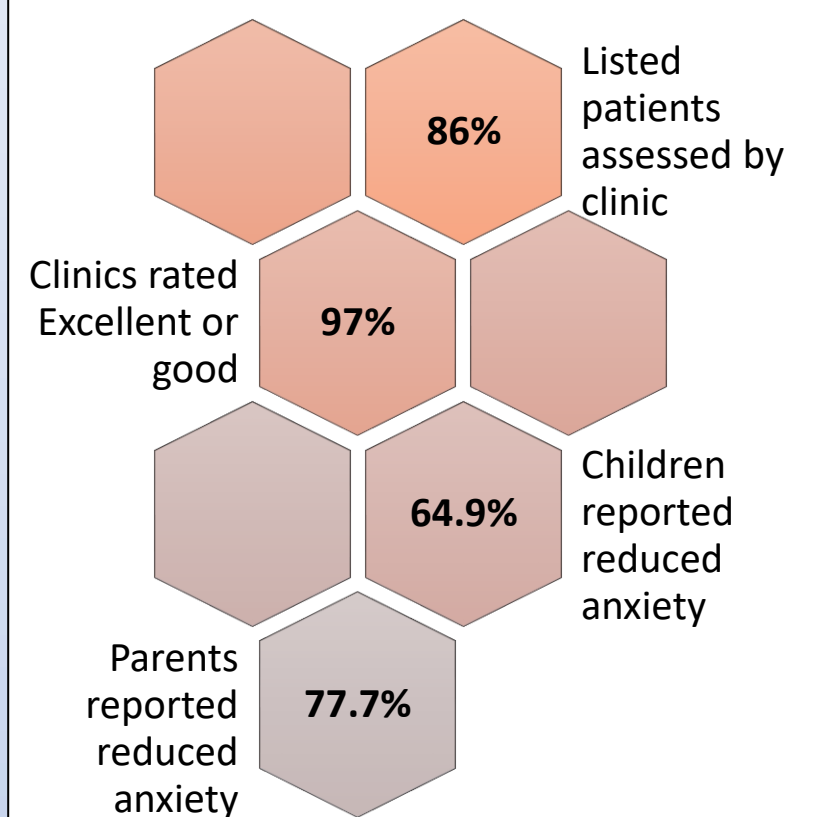
Survey 2; 337 responses

Provision



Survey 1; 6 sites responded

Patient & Family Experience



Survey 3; 215 responses

Theatre List Efficiency

Impaired list efficiency was reported in **40%** of surveys.

It was reported that thorough pre-operative assessment may have identified these issues in **47.4%** of cases. Hospitals with no pre-operative assessment services had a higher proportion of lists affected.

Survey 4; 76 responses

Conclusions

- Telephone and face-to-face assessments are valued by parents and reduce anxiety levels in parents and children.
- Clinicians should be vigilant for patient anxiety, especially when running telephone clinics as anxiety is less frequently identified with this modality.
- Pre-operative assessment is effective at identifying issues and may lead to fewer cancellations and improved list efficiency.
- There is variation in practice throughout the Southwest demonstrating the need for national guidance on the provision of pre-operative assessment for children undergoing general anaesthetic.