

## **Paediatric Working Group Operational Plan**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Background**

There is currently no pre requisite for paediatric recovery room training either for specialised paediatric units or for general units which care for children. Most specialised paediatric recovery rooms employ adult trained nurses [ATN]. The changes in nurse training means that adult trained nurses either have limited, or no exposure to paediatrics. However, the expectation is that 'Adult nurses must be able to recognise and respond to the needs of all who come into their care ...including babies, children and young people', (NMC 2014).

While there is a plethora of specific information on paediatric training for anaesthetists, references to paediatric recovery training for nurses/ODP's is sparse. The Royal College of Anaesthetists (2024) states 'The staff in this area should have paediatric experience and current paediatric competencies, including resuscitation'. This passing reference to PACU in their Guidelines for the Provision of Paediatric Anaesthesia Services is disappointing.

The Association of Anaesthetists states '... staff should have received appropriate training to a nationally recognised Standards such as the UK National Core Competencies for Post-Anaesthetic Care'. These are however, adult PACU competencies with no mention of paediatric competencies.

Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) and Anaesthetic Nurses (AN) training is predominately adult based with around two weeks exposure to paediatrics; there is no clear standard for this at present.

Regional development of competencies and training for paediatric recovery is ongoing, however the need to raise the profile of this specialist area and to develop a competency and training structure at the national level is now urgent.

#### **Scope**

To raise the profile of paediatric recovery practice in both specialised Paediatric Recovery Units or in the general PACU caring for children alongside adults. Similarly to focus attention on the lack of specialised paediatric training for Operating Department Practitioners and Anaesthetic Nurses in preparation for their roles in anaesthetics.

To initiate standardisation of care to bring consistency, promote safe practice and transferability of knowledge and skills through evidence based guidance, support and education to registered anaesthetic and recovery room practitioners.

## **Aims**

1. Develop best practice for paediatric anaesthesia and PACU practitioners.
2. Develop national standardisation for training and practice in paediatric anaesthesia and recovery.

## **Objectives**

1. Produce standardised paediatric competencies for PACU practice [both in specialised paediatric and general units].
2. Produce paediatric workbooks to provide content for competencies defining depth and scope of knowledge and skills.

## **Membership of the Paediatric Working Group**

The Forum is open to all practitioners who have an interest, or care for children during their peri-anaesthetic journey including :

- Registered Nurse Child
- Registered Nurse Adult
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Registered Nurse Associate
- Paediatric Anaesthetists

Membership of BARNA is not required to be a member of the working group.

## **Management of Working Group**

The Working Group will be managed by a BARNA Board Member who will be responsible for

- Maintaining contact list of members.
- Welcoming newcomers to the group.
- Maintaining regular contact with members [email, phone, meeting]
- Organising regular meetings [usually via teams]
- Discussing priorities with the group, setting objectives for the year, allocating members of the group to agreed tasks.
- Feeding back to the BARNA Board the results of the work undertaken.

## **Members Responsibilities**

- Attend meetings whenever possible [meetings may be every 6 weeks].
- Contribute to the work stream, feeding back content to the organisation that they are representing.

## **References**

NMC (2014): Standards of Competency for Registered Nurses. Nursing and Midwifery Council, London.

Association of Anaesthetics [2013] Immediate Post-Anaesthesia Recovery Supplement. Association of Anaesthetists, London

Royal College of Nursing (2020), Day Surgery of Children and Young People. Royal College of Nursing, London

Royal College of Anaesthetists (2024): Guidelines for the Provision of Paediatric Anaesthesia. Royal College of Anaesthetists, London.