

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

ACCEPTED SURGICAL REFERRAL PATHWAYS

To be read in conjunction with: 'Policy document for the review, management and treatment of children with possible appendicitis at Kingston Hospital', April 2017

1. **All surgical referrals for adults** will be from the ED ST4+ (or equivalent) or the ED Consultant to the SHO (or equivalent) in surgery.
2. The surgical doctor will provide the referring doctor with an estimated time to assessment.
3. In cases of delay to surgical assessment, the escalation from the ED would be another bleep to the SHO, then escalation to the Surgical Registrar and then the Consultant in Surgery.
4. **No children between 0 and 5 years are to be referred to the surgical team at Kingston.**

All children presenting to the ED with acute abdominal pain must be reviewed by an ED Registrar or Consultant. The ED will contact the Paediatric Surgical Registrar at St George's directly for advice and arrange transfer as appropriate.

If an acute abdominal condition is suspected in the ED, the child should also be referred to the Paediatric Registrar for review. If the child is being managed by a suitably qualified Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, the referral to the Paediatric Registrar may be omitted at the discretion of the Consultant. Intravenous cannulation, routine bloods and fluid resuscitation should be commenced in the ED prior to transfer and it is the responsibility of the ED to undertake this. A Paediatric Alvarado score should be calculated and documented in the notes.

Equally, any child aged between 0 and 5 years admitted under the paediatric team who subsequently develops a surgical problem will be referred by the paediatric team directly to the paediatric surgeons at St George's.

5. **Children over 6 years and less than 18 years** presenting with acute abdominal pain to the ED will be reviewed by the ED Registrar or Consultant. If an acute abdominal condition is suspected, the ED Registrar or Consultant should refer the child to the Surgical Registrar **and, if the child is under 11 years of age**, the on-call Paediatric Registrar. It is expected that both the Surgical and Paediatric Registrars will review the child in person while in the ED.

It is the responsibility of the ED to undertake intravenous cannulation, routine bloods and urinalysis prior to referral and to commence fluid resuscitation as required. A Paediatric Alvarado score should be calculated and documented in the notes as appropriate.

The Surgical Registrar should discuss the case with the on-call Surgical Consultant to determine the suitability of the child to be admitted at Kingston for either further investigation or definitive management. If the Surgical Consultant does not feel that the child should be admitted at Kingston, the surgical team will be responsible for discussing the case with the Paediatric Surgeons at St George's and arrange transfer accordingly. If a child is septic from a suspected perforation and requires PICU support, retrieval via STRS will be facilitated by the Paediatric Registrar.

6. All children aged over 6 years admitted to Kingston with a suspected acute abdomen will be under the joint care of the Paediatric and Surgical teams.