

# Time Critical Paediatric Transfers

**Aim** To provide guidance on the management of children requiring a time critical transfer

**Scope** All paediatric patients requiring transfer to Southampton, for whom the delay associated with retrieval is unacceptable

## Situations when the Portsmouth team should transfer directly

Normally, SORT should be called to retrieve critically ill children from QAH to Southampton. Sometimes, the time delay inherent in this process may be unacceptable, for example:

- Expanding intracranial mass eg . bleed
- Blocked ventriculo-peritoneal (VP) shunt
- Penetrating brain injury
- Compound skull fracture
- Bleeding that cannot be controlled at QAH
- Clinical suspicion of any of the above, but unable to perform CT scan

## Process

1. Treating team call ICU (bleep 1987 or phone 5752) and ask the ICU registrar or consultant to attend.
2. Senior paediatric and ICU doctors review the child in situ.
3. Contact SORT on retrieval hotline (023 80775502) and make a formal referral. SORT will contact the necessary teams in Southampton (e.g. neurosurgery)
4. Call Ambulance Control to request a TIME CRITICAL AMBULANCE.
5. Prepare for transfer as quickly as possible, using QAH guidelines (eg. ICU transfer SOP) and telephone advice from SORT.

## Pre-Departure Checklist

- ☐ **Personnel:** transfer nurse and ICU consultant or adequately trained SpR
- ☐ **Airway secured:** if GCS<9 or facial fractures, with position confirmed on CXR, established on ventilator
- ☐ **Full monitoring:** to AAGBI/ICS standard (do not waste time inserting an arterial line)
- ☐ **IV / IO access:** 2 points, working and secured working IV (or IO) access points
- ☐ **Infusions:** made and secured
- ☐ **Notes & transfer forms:** notes photocopied, network & paediatric transfer forms started
- ☐ **Mobile phone:** with SORT and QAH telephone numbers
- ☐ **SORT telephoned:** to confirm when the team is leaving and where to report to in Southampton
- ☐ **Family informed:** instructed to travel separately to Southampton - slowly and carefully