

**SAFETY AND QUALITY
REMINDER OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Subject	Wrong Site Surgery (In Children Referred for Dental Extractions Under General Anaesthesia)
HSCB reference numbers	SQR-SAI-2021-087 (All PoCs)
Programme of care	All Programmes of Care (All PoCs)
Assurances required	First Line of Assurance

LEARNING SOURCE			
SAI/Early Alert/Adverse incident	✓	Complaint	
Audit or other review		Coroner's inquest	
Other (Please specify)			

SUMMARY OF EVENT
<p>During 2019 -2020 there were several reported Never Events/ Serious Adverse Incidents from various NI Trusts involving Wrong Site Surgeries that had all occurred in Community Dental Services Paediatric General Anaesthesia (GA) Extraction Day Procedure Theatre settings. Cases included the wrong site extraction of both deciduous and permanent teeth and resulted in repeat, second General Anaesthetic procedures with associated risks.</p> <p>Wrong site surgery is defined as an invasive procedure performed on the wrong patient or at the wrong site. The incident may be detected at any stage after the start of the procedure. At the time of these incidents wrong site surgery in dentistry was listed on the <i>NHS Improvement: Never Events List, 2018 Revision</i>, which had been endorsed by the <i>DOH circular HSC (SQSD) 56/16</i>:</p> <p>https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/2266/Never_Events_list_2018_FINAL_v5.pdf</p> <p>https://www.healthni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/HSC-SQSD-56-16.pdf</p> <p>Given the number of these Never Events it was deemed appropriate to develop this intermediate learning letter whilst investigations were being completed in an attempt to reduce the risk of possible further harm occurring in the interim.</p>

REQUIREMENTS UNDER CURRENT GUIDANCE

Dental Wrong Site Surgeries/ Change in Guidance.

Since the reporting of these incidents as Never Events, the NHS England Improvement list was amended in February 2021 with the updating of the category relating to 'wrong site surgery' - to exclude the removal of wrong teeth. The rationale for this change being that the systemic barriers to prevent the removal of wrong teeth are considered not to be strong enough to prevent these events from occurring e.g. lack of standardisation in types of tooth notation and difficulties with site marking.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/never-events/>

Subsequently in August 2021 the Department of Health released the HSC Revised Never Event List for Northern Ireland, HSC (SQSD) 7/21 which also excluded the removal of the wrong teeth from the wrong site surgery never event list .

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/safety-and-quality-standards-circulars>

This means that any similar future incidents would not need to be reported as Never Events although when General Anaesthetic is involved these would still fulfil the criteria of being a Serious Adverse Incident and anything that can be done to prevent recurrence should be undertaken.

In 2015 NHS England published a document '*National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures*' (*NatSSIP's*) which set out principles of safe practice with the aim to reduce the number of surgical Never Events. They are an addition to the existing recommended WHO Surgical Checklist which should continue to be used.

https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/5405/NatSSIPs_Final_updated_June_2019.pdf

The standards advise NHS providers to develop detailed, local standards (*LocSSIP's*) and share best practice between organisations. They highlight that the avoidance of Never Events starts from before the invasive procedure. Thus the patient pathway as a whole, from referral, to the decision to treat, through assessment/ planning of admission, procedural until discharge are all essential components. The passage of key patient information between different parts of the organisation, the consent process, documentation of the process, post-procedural management are all essential parts of a safe patient pathway.

To aid the development of local standards a wrong tooth extraction toolkit has been created as an NHS Local Safety Standard for Invasive Procedures (*LocSSIPs*) working group and this should be adapted to suit individual local patient pathways.

<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/dental-faculties/fds/publications-guidelines/locssips-toolkit-dental-extraction/>
https://www.fgdp.org.uk/sites/fgdp.org.uk/files/docs/news/locssips_toolkit_dental_extraction.pdf

Multidisciplinary best practice guidance relating specifically to the management of Paediatric patients referred for dental extractions under GA was published initially in 2011 and endorsed by all relevant medical, nursing and dental professional bodies and these cover all aspects of the patient pathway from referral to discharge.

<https://www.bspd.co.uk/Portals/0/Public/Files/Guidelines/Main%20Dental%20Guidelines.pdf>

ACTION REQUIRED

All HSC Trusts must:

- 1 Disseminate this letter to all relevant dental, medical and nursing staff, and discuss it at team meetings/safety briefings.
- 2 Provide appropriate education and training for all staff working in Paediatric General Anaesthetic Services including those in Assessment Clinics and Day Procedure Theatres to ensure Multidisciplinary Team compliance with the Professional Guidance/ Standards relating to the management of paediatric patients referred for extractions under General Anaesthesia (GA).
- 3 Use WHO surgical checklists and develop Standard Operating Procedures/ LocSSips based on the RCS toolkit but modify these to meet the specific challenges of treating children referred for extractions under GA to facilitate compliance with existing Professional guidance on best practice. These should include the entire patient pathway from assessment, consent process through to post procedural management.
- 4 Ensure timely completion of existing SAI/ NE reviews to identify specific learning/ shared themes to improve patient safety.

NIMDTA should:


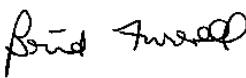

1. Disseminate this letter to all relevant doctors and dentists in training in relevant specialties.

HSCB should:

1. Disseminate this letter to all General Dental Practitioners (GDPs).

RQIA should

1. Disseminate this letter to private General Dental Practices.

Date issued	29 September 2021		
Signed:			
Issued by	Mr Michael Donaldson Head of Dental Services	Dr Brid Farrell Acting Director of Public Health	Mr Rodney Morton Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals

RE: SQR-SAI-2021-087 (All PoCs) - Wrong Site Surgery (In Children Referred for Dental Extractions Under General Anaesthesia) – Distribution List

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
HSC Trusts			PHA		
CEXs	✓		CEX		✓
First point of contact	✓		Director of Public Health		✓
NIAS			Director of Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs		✓
CEX			Director of HSCQI		✓
First point of contact			AD Service Development, Safety and Quality		✓
RQIA			PHA Duty Room		
CEX	✓		AD Health Protection		
Director of Quality Improvement		✓	AD Screening and Professional Standards		
Director of Quality Assurance		✓	AD Health Improvement		
NIMDTA			ADs Nursing		✓
CEX / PG Dean		✓	AD Allied Health Professionals		
			Clinical Director of HSCQI		✓
			HSCB		
QUB			CEX		✓
Dean of Medical School		✓	Director of Integrated Care	✓	
Head of Nursing School		✓	Director of Social Services		
Head of Social Work School			Director of Commissioning		
Head of Pharmacy School			Alerts Office		✓
Head of Dentistry School		✓	Interim Director of PMSI		
UU					
Head of Nursing School		✓	Primary Care (through Integrated Care)		
Head of Social Work School		✓	GPs		
Head of Pharmacy School			Community Pharmacists		
Head of School of Health Sciences (AHP Lead)			Dentists	✓	
Open University			Dispensing GPs		
Head of Nursing Branch		✓	BSO		
			Chief Executive		
Clinical Education Centre		✓			
NIPEC			DoH		
NICPLD			CMO office		✓
NI Medicines Governance Team Leader for Secondary Care			CNO office		✓
NI Social Care Council			CPO office		
Safeguarding Board NI			CSSO office		
NICE Implementation Facilitator			CDO office		✓
Coroners Service for Northern Ireland			Safety, Quality and Standards Office		✓

