



KIDS/NTS SOP for the transfer of children/young people aged over 16 years of age



NHSE/I commissions services to care for critically ill children in the UK rather than an integrated care system. As part of this, the service specification¹ for Paediatric Critical Care and Critical Care Transport for children states that:

“PCC services shall be available to all critically ill children from the point of discharge from maternity or a neonatal unit until their 16th birthday.”

It is on this basis that the KIDS transfer team is commissioned and the service standards that are offered.

Therefore, the default assumption for a young person age 16 or older requiring intensive care is that it will be delivered in Adult Intensive Care. If transport is required, this should be delivered by an Adult Critical Care Transfer Service.

Exceptions may be considered in the following circumstances:

- 1) The young person is already an inpatient in a level 2 or above Paediatric Critical Care setting.
- 2) The young person is under a Paediatric Specialist Team (i.e Liver and Bowel transplant/Epilepsy surgery) as part of the long-term care of a health condition and has not yet started the transition to an Adult Specialist team. In practice, this will mean that the young person has not yet had contact with the Adult Specialist Team, even if an appropriate referral has been made. This may include situations where specific medical or surgical input is required by the paediatric team that the child is known to.

If a person over 16 years who is still under the care of a Specialist Paediatric Team, presents with a problem unrelated to that condition (for example - a person with Diabetes, who is involved in a road traffic collision), the patient should be cared for by the Adult Intensive Care Team & Adult Critical Care Transport where required.

Please contact the KIDSNTS team to discuss cases where required, and/or where the pathway is unclear.

References:

1. PCC L. Schedule 2 - Service specification for Level 3 PCC. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/01/e07-sa-paed-inten-care.pdf>