

Document Control

Title: Safe Waiting List Management for Paediatric Cardiac Surgery and Intervention			
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Associated Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NWCHDN_23_Paediatric Congenital Heart Disease Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meeting Standard Operating Procedure NWCHDN_24_Paediatric Congenital Heart Disease Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Terms of Reference 			
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Safe Management of Paediatric Cardiac Surgical and Paediatric Cardiac Interventional Waiting Lists

Date 11/08/25



Safe waiting list management

This guidance relates to the safe management of patients on the waiting list for paediatric cardiac surgery or paediatric intervention at the Level 1 centre. Please to refer to the following documents for details around the process for discussion and listing.

1. **NWCHDN_23** Paediatric Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Joint Cardiac Conference (JCC) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
2. **NWCHDN_30** Cardiac Catheterisation & Intervention SOP

Note that patients are prioritised in according with the national Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) classification P codes. These are rough guidelines and are not entirely suited to CHD practice. Further detail around planned timing of surgery or intervention should be documented in the summary sheet by the consultant completing the form at the time of the JCC discussion.

Table 1: Waiting List Priority according to Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) Classification

P1a	Emergency surgery needed within 24 hours, life saving
P1b	Urgent surgery needed within 72 hours
P2	Elective surgery that can wait up to 4 weeks (high clinical priority)
P3	Surgery can be delayed safely up to 3 months (moderate priority)
P4	Surgery can be delayed more than 3 months without predicted harm

Listing meetings

Both teams hold weekly listing meetings to review the waiting list and to offer patients a provisional date for their procedure. Following this meeting the PCO team make arrangements for pre-admission review and will contact the family.

Raising a clinical concern about a patient on the waiting list

For a minority of patients listed for a planned procedure their clinical status may deteriorate, or things may change the diagnosis or modify the plan for surgery. Please complete a clinical urgency form with the patient details and send to:
ahc-tr.cardiology@nhs.net.

For urgent concerns this should be accompanied by a phone call to the cardiology consultant on call available via the Alder Hey switchboard. Please note that the email will not be monitored out of hours and over weekends and you should contact the on-call Registrar or Consultant available via switch board 0151 228 4811.

The Clinical Urgency Update Form can be downloaded directly from the North West CHD Network Website via the link below:

[Clinical Guidelines and Useful information | Northwest, North Wales, Isle of Man Congenital Heart Network \(northwestchdnetwork.nhs.uk\)](http://northwestchdnetwork.nhs.uk)

Contact Details of The Cardiac Nurse Specialists

RMCH Helpline

0161 701 0664

Alder Hey Helpline

0151 252 5291

The telephone numbers for the Nurse Specialists can also be found at:

[Contact Us | Northwest, North Wales, Isle of Man Congenital Heart Network \(northwestchdnetwork.nhs.uk\)](http://northwestchdnetwork.nhs.uk)

Concerns raised by parents

Parents raising concerns about the timing of the planned procedure or with any clinical concerns, questions or queries should be directed to the relevant specialist nursing team. They will seek further advice from the lead consultant if required.