RCPCH response to the Paediatric Intensive Care Society Standards consultation – October 2014

The RCPCH welcomes the opportunity to respond to the PICS Standards consultation.

Should any of the Standards be changed?

- **Standard 67** states *"There should be 24 hour resident cover by a clinician trained to, or training at, the equivalent of paediatric medicine (RCPCH) level 2 competences or above"* noting that for doctors in training this will normally be ST3 or above. Numerous units use clinical fellows however there is no mention of what level they are, clarification is required on what level of experience Clinical fellows must have to provide cover.

- The language in the standards will need to be changed to comply with the current NHS system. eg the NSF is not a term which is now used. The definitions for urgent care need to comply with current NHSE guidance also.

- The RCPCH worked collaboratively within the Children's Surgical Forum (CFS) to produce surgical standards for children and there is a whole section on standards with respect to networks in this document. The RCPCH would welcome a section on network standards in this document, which would strengthen the coordination arrangements to locate PIC beds and when making transfer or retrieval arrangements

- The section on critical and high dependency care needs to align with the *High Dependency Care; Time to Move on* recommendations with respect to service and workforce standards

- (**Page 8**) "Children who undergo surgical care are not currently under a paediatrician but will have access to a paediatrician". The RCPCH suggests using same language as in the Surgical standards for children (http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/publications/docs/standards-in-childrens-surgery)

Should any other Standards be added?

<u>Pallative Care</u>

- The RCPCH would welcome Palliative care to be included in the Standards
- The need for skills in advance care planning, consideration of preferred place of care and preferred place of death
- Consideration of what happens when a decision taken to **not** transfer a child from a referring hospital in certain circumstances (i.e how their ongoing care is managed locally and when to escalate).
- Need for access to a paediatrician and senior nurse with palliative care skills

- A possible addition to the guidance might include "Lead anaesthetist to ensure provision is made to ensure appropriate anaesthetic support is available for transfers 24 hours, 7 days a week."

- There should always be a clinician on site who can manage airways beyond bag and mask.

- The RCPCH would welcome adding a definition of Children and Young people (CYP), stating that this is up to their 18th birthday so that there is no grey area for CYP aged 16 and 17. The RCPCH recommends that all patient experience standards should be checked against the *You're Welcome; Quality criteria for young people friendly health services* document produced by the Department of Health. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216350/dh_127632.pdf

- Need to measure outcomes using the NHS outcomes framework and CYPHO Forum recommendations as benchmarks against which to measure the standards

- Standard 9 relating to safeguarding competencies should be aligned with the *The Intercollegiate Safeguarding Competences* which include specific competences at Level 3 for Paediatric Intensivists http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/page/Safeguarding%20Children%20-%20Roles%20and%20Competences%20for%20Healthcare%20Staff%20%2002%200%20%20%20%20(3)_0.pdf

- *Working Together*, provides an overview of actions by professionals when a child dies unexpectedly both in and outside of hospital settings – however it's important to note that the definition of unexpected is 'the death of an infant or child (less than 18 years old) which was not anticipated as a significant possibility for example, 24 hours before the death; or where there was a similarly unexpected collapse or incident leading to or precipitating the events which lead to the death'. The RCPCH recommends referencing the unexpected death definition from the statutory guidance. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281368/Working_together_to_safeguard_children.pdf

- The RCPCH is currently in the process of revising the Facing the Future Standards. It is essential that all four documents; *Paediatric Intensive Care Society* (PICS) Standards, *Facing the Future*, *High Dependency Care; Time to Move on*, and *Standards for Children and Young People in Emergency Care Settings* are aligned in order to ensure clear pathways and joined up care for all children and young people.