

#### **PIPER Paediatric**



#### **Paediatric Infant Perinatal Emergency Retrieval Service**

Dr Christopher James RCH PICU Consultant PIPER Paediatric Co-Director



#### PIPER



- PETS commenced in 1979
- PIPER Paediatric in 2016
- Consultant led
- Advice as well as retrieval
- Currently one team
- Go Now second team activated
- 2018 additional team
- Outreach education



#### **PIPER Paediatric Calls**





## **Teams Retrieving Patients**







General	Cardiac / respiratory arrest Lactate >6 pH <7.0 Sepsis / shock requiring intubation
CVS	Any Arrhythmia with haemodynamic instability Systemic to PA shunt needing intubation / inotropes Suspected / confirmed myocarditis / cardiomyopathy needing intubation / inotropes
Resp	Upper airway obstruction > 2 adrenaline nebs or low Sp02 Pneumonia Sp02 <90% on local NIV Large pleural effusion with near white out
Neuro	Reduced GCS <flexion Prolonged seizures &gt;2 midazolam/ phenytoin / ETT</flexion 
Other	Sepsis >40ml/kg fluid Ammonia >200
Recommendations	Send 2 <sup>nd</sup> team if necessary, Ideally Leave within 15mins!!!



#### **Median Activation Time**





#### Transport Out - Trends





# Median Length of Retrieval



#### Patient Ages







# **Diagnostic Categories - Trends**



### **Respiratory Support**



#### **Respiratory Support**









## **Referring Hospitals**





#### Where do patients go?





# **Education and Training**

- 'Situation Critical Days'
- 2 centralised RCH PIPER education days annually. Stabilisation of unwell children
- 17 outreach education sessions in various departments in various hospitals around Victoria. Topics dependant on local need.

# Communication!



- Please call early
- 24/7 service, even for advice
- You are not 'bothering us' in the middle of the night
- 3 cases in the last 3 weeks.....

#### Last Week



- 11 month old presents to ED
- Pale, off feeds, lethargic, looks unwell
- SR wants iv access, ECG, bloods and a gas
- ECG wide complex tachycardia
- pH 7.2, CO2 35, Lactate 6
- 'repeat lactate in 4hrs'
- After 3 hrs patient arrests CPR and call PIPER
- PIPER arrives (45 mins) stop CPR



- Had we been called when the lactate was 6....
- Role for telehealth?

#### Week Before



- PIPER called by consultant anaesthetist
- 4yr old has had a tonsillectomy this morning in private hospital
- Re-intubated because of small bleed
- ?aspirated on re-intubation blood suctioned
- Now extubated again but 02 requirement
- Bleeding stopped but 'can't stay here'



- Anaesthetist wants patient retrieved now
- PIPER consultant called obs stable, in a safe place, team out, not 'Go Now', must wait
- Anaesthetist calls PIPER back after 30 minutes
- Tells co-ord, patient hypoxic 70's
- PIPER consultant you should reintubate
- Anaesthetist don't want to. Sats 90's
- PIPER consultant team back soon



- Co-ord calls PIPER consultant he sounded really panicked, should we 'Go Now'?
- PIPER consultant No, could re-intubate, sats in 90's
- Team sent out 1 hr later child arrested on arrival (PIPER ROSC)
- Beware mixed messages depending on hierarchy!

# Week Before That



- Middle of the night
- 1 year old needs intubating for resp distress
- Anaesthetic registrar 'Please come now'
- Go Now team leaves
- Calls back where are you? Can't get tube in
- PIPER on our way. Have you called your consultant?



- SR no need. He's 30 mins away. You'll be here
- PIPER How many attempts have you had?
- SR 2
- PIPER call your consultant
- PIPER arrives SR has had 6 attempts. Hasn't called to 'bother his boss in the middle of night'



- Laryngoscopy: Blood +++ Unable to intubate
- Transferred with LMA
- ENT and anaesthetics wait for team in OT at RCH

## Conclusions



- Please call early you are not 'bothering us'
- Feedback regional CEOs and Paeds Directors
- Telehealth the key to 'keeping up with quality and safety'?