We'd like to invite you to take part in our research study. Joining the study is entirely voluntary. Before you decide whether to join we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. One of our team will go through this information sheet with you, to help you decide whether or not you would like to take part and answer any questions you may have.

CASAP is a research study focused on the care delivered to children undergoing emergency surgery on their abdomen. We hope to include all children who receive this type of surgery in any NHS hospital within the United Kingdom for six months. Find out more about our study below.

**What is the aim of this study?**

This study is measuring how the care delivered to children undergoing emergency abdominal surgery in the UK compares to recommended national and international standards. We aim to assess the quality of the care you are receiving during your stay in hospital. Although it is unlikely, sometimes after surgery patients may encounter complications such as infections, which can be treated with antibiotics. We hope that by collecting information about the care children are receiving we will also be able to identify which factors may contribute to the development of complications.

**What does taking part in this study involve?**

Your involvement in this study does not affect the medical care you will receive. The medical team looking after you will continue to treat you as they normally would.

We will collect information about the care you receive in hospital, such as the tests performed before your operation, the time it takes from arriving in hospital to arriving in theatre, any treatments you may receive after your operation and information such as what your temperature was when you arrived in hospital. No extra tests will take place.

The information collected will be entered into a secure database so that it can be stored safely in accordance with NHS recommendations and standards. Some of the information will be shared with a small group of
NHS and University researchers to help us understand how to improve the care we provide to children having this kind of surgery in the future. Any data collected is only used for research after it has been made anonymous. The study will abide by strict information governance and confidentiality procedures. 

None of your personal information will be made public.

What are the benefits of taking part in this study?

Whilst your participation in this study will not change the care you receive during this stay we hope that the information we gain from conducting this study will improve the care delivered in our hospitals in the future.

What are the disadvantages of taking part in this study?

We do not anticipate any disadvantages to taking part in this study. You will be looked after in the same way you would be normally.

How long will the study last?

We will be collecting data for around 6 months, although your direct involvement will only be while you are in hospital.

Can I withdraw from the study?

If you do not wish to be included in this study you can notify a member of the study team. We will then ensure that your details are not entered into the study and if they have already been entered but not yet analysed the data will be removed. If your information has already been included in the analysis we will not be able to remove it. This will only be anonymised information. 

A decision to withdraw from the study will not change the care you will receive whilst in hospital.

Is my Information Safe?

Yes. Very strict rules and secure procedures are in place to ensure that your information is kept safe. These systems and procedures comply with international standards and will be continuously monitored and adapted as necessary to maintain security over the lifetime of the project.

University College London (UCL) is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from your medical records in order to undertake this study. UCL will act as the data controller for the study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

Your rights to access, change or remove your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will anonymise any data we collect.

If you have any queries about the use of your information please feel free to contact the study team – CASAP@rcoa.ac.uk. Alternatively, for more information about this study please visit the CASAP study website – https://www.niaa-hsrc.org.uk/CASAP-Home

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results from the study will be published in scientific journals, professional literature, social media, online on our study website and presented at conferences. They will also be made available to all hospitals.
throughout the UK who undertake children’s emergency surgery to enable them to improve the care they deliver. Some results may also be analysed as part of an academic project being undertaken at UCL. You will not be identified in any publication.

Who is organising the study?

The study is being organised by UCL and funded by the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland, the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and the UCL Surgical Outcomes Research Centre. Prof Ramani Moonesinghe is the Chief Investigator for CASAP.

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to ask one of the local research team or contact the study team via the study website.

Useful Contact Details:

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<th>Study Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>CASAP Website:</td>
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<td>CASAP Email:</td>
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<th>Local Research Team</th>
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<td>Hospital Investigator:</td>
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<td>Research Nurse:</td>
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<td>Local PALS Office Contact Number:</td>
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