The Children’s Acute Surgical Abdomen Programme (CASAP) is an observational cohort study beginning in April 2019. It is being delivered by the Health Services Research Centre in collaboration with the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists and the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, and aims to characterise the type and quality of care being delivered to children having emergency abdominal surgery in the U.K. Data will be collected on all children aged 1-16 years old having this type of surgery during a 6 month study period, including details such as demographics, peri-operative physiology and postoperative complications. This prospectively collected data will be linked with NHS databases to ascertain long-term outcomes for this patient group. It is known that there is considerable variation in the care delivered to these children and we hope that CASAP will help to address this important issue.

The completion of an organisational survey is a prerequisite to hospital enrolment in the main CASAP patient study.

As a Principal Investigator for CASAP you will be asked to fulfil the following tasks:

- Provide local leadership within your institution in all matters relating to the CASAP study.
- Liaise with your local R&D office and ensure local R&D approvals are granted.
- Know the study protocol and act as a point of contact for those within the trust with questions relating to the study and the protocol.
- Assist and monitor the local research group.
- Guarantee the integrity of the data collection in your institution by appointing and guiding data collectors.
- Ensure patients are appropriately followed up by / at 30 days post procedure.
- Ensure the transcription of data from paper CRFs onto the CASAP web-based data collection tool is timely and accurate.
- Coordinate the local data cleaning process.
- Ensure safe and secure storage of all study documents for 10 years after data collection has ceased, and oversee the disposal of these documents in accordance with applicable regulatory guidelines once this time period has passed.

If you anticipate that you will be recruiting high numbers of patients you may wish to consider nominating a local trainee lead for CASAP to whom you can delegate some of these tasks. The Trainee Lead may also aid the data collection process by coordinating colleagues through the generation of a data collection and/or data transcribing rota.