

Update Analysis – ‘What’s changed?’

Note: This table details updates to guidelines made since the 2016 Reference Edition and 2017 Supplementary Guidelines were published.

Note: A number of additional guidelines have had minor changes, relating to consistency and assessment and management tables.

SECTION 1	
General Guidance	
Staff Health and Wellbeing	This guideline has been updated with sources of help and signposting included, and new details on spotting the signs of reduced mental wellness.
Duty of Care	This new guideline covers health and safety, the tort of negligence and the right to life.
Patient Confidentiality	This guideline has been updated with reference to the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).
Pain Management in Children	Reference to topical analgesia and tetracaine has been removed.
End of Life Care	<p>We have revised the guideline and made a number of areas clearer with more detail and explanation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We mention ReSPECT (Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment), which has been adopted in a number of areas across the UK. ● There is emphasis placed on shared decision making, and particularly for administering end of life medications. ● There is a new section on recognising patients that may be in the last year of life. ● There is emphasis on liaison with palliative care/nursing teams in line with local pathways, particularly if ‘anticipatory’ or ‘just in case’ medicines are prescribed and available. ● There is detail about opioid administration in the last hours of life. ● There is a new section on Naloxone use in end of life care. ● There is new information about transdermal patches and syringe drivers, oxygen considerations and use of fans for breathlessness. ● Finally, it highlights the importance of staff wellbeing as dealing with end of life care can be distressing. <p>(See new monograph for morphine for managing pain in end of life care.)</p>

SECTION 2	
Resuscitation	<p>This is a fully revised and updated section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It includes pathophysiology, mechanisms of forward blood flow, CPR-induced consciousness, use of CPR feedback devices and checklists, human factors, the team leader approach to ALS and cardiac arrest downloads. BLS for adults and children has been revised for solo ambulance responders. Foreign body airway obstruction for adult and child has been combined. Special circumstances in cardiac arrest has been updated. ● In advanced life support, more practical ambulance and pre-hospital specific guidance is included, as well as revised guidance on when to stop ALS in cases of ‘persistent and continuous asystole for 20 minutes’. ● Principles of defibrillation, fine VF, AED versus manual mode, defibrillator pads, mechanical chest compression devices, use of Naloxone for opiates as a cause of arrest, and bariatric patients are covered.
Emergency Tracheostomy and Laryngectomy	New guidance and management algorithms for confirming tracheostomy patency, emergency management, specific types of equipment used with photographs, suction and oxygen.

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SECTION 3	
Medical Emergencies	The assessment and management tables have been revised to improve consistency. NEWS2 is included.
Medical Emergencies in Adults and Children	Revised and improved clinical assessment and management tables.
Acute Coronary Syndrome	This revised guideline includes a new section on the 12-lead ECG.
Abdominal Pain	New common causes have been added and the assessment and management table has been revised.
Allergic Reactions Including Anaphylaxis	The adult and child guidelines have been brought together with new details on the development of symptoms and the management of mild presentations.
Altered Level of Consciousness	Inclusion of NICE red flags and management guidance.
Asthma	The adult and child guidelines have been brought together with new details on personal plans, prednisolone where it is available, and avoiding over ventilation.
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	Inclusion of BTS guidance, alert cards, classifications and community management included.
Convulsions in Adults	Fully revised guideline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Features of psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (PNES) are described. ● A new section relates to driving. ● New assessment and management tables for ongoing/recurrent seizures and seizures that have stopped. ● Guidance on conveyance decisions. ● Revised treatment algorithm.
Dyspnoea	This update includes more reference to causes with links to other guidelines and better alignment of the management steps. End of life is covered as is reference to the MRC dyspnoea scale.
Febrile Illness in Children	Revised guideline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Major’ and ‘minor’ illness described. ● Signs and symptoms of specific diseases added. ● Red flags added. ● Points around antipyretics and antibiotics added.
Gastrointestinal Bleeding	TXA is not indicated for gastrointestinal bleeding.
Glycaemic Emergencies in Adults and Children	Adult and child guidelines have been merged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New guidance on blood glucose monitors, ketone meters, sick day rules, insulin pumps, driving, impaired awareness, conveyance guidance, mild/moderate hypoglycaemia management have been updated. ● Hyperosmolar hyperglycaemic state (HHS) is detailed.
Headache	A revised and updated guideline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Red flags have been revised. ● Types of headache have been added including migraine, cluster, tension and medication overuse headaches, subarachnoid haemorrhage and a detailed management section.
Heart Failure	A revised and updated guideline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The indication to give salbutamol for LVF has been removed and the indication for furosemide amended. ● For GTN the systolic blood pressure needs to be 110 mmHg to administer GTN and a new indication to administer for patients with suspected cocaine toxicity presenting with chest pain has been added to bring this in line with the overdose guideline.

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Hyperventilation Syndrome	Revised guideline. ● Differential diagnosis features and signs and symptoms table added.
Hypothermia	This guideline has been updated and aligned to the resuscitation update.
Immersion and Drowning	Updated in line with the resuscitation section.
Management and Resuscitation of Patients with Left Ventricular Assist Devices (LVADs)	A new guideline. ● Detailed diagrams and management algorithms are included.
Meningococcal Meningitis and Septicaemia	This guideline has been updated. ● Assessment and management table and specific clinical features and details about the rash have been added. ● Clarity is added on the administration of benzylpenicillin.
Mental Health Presentation: Crisis, Distress and Disordered Behaviour.	A revised guideline. ● Key assessment skills, communication tips and types of questions to ask, new traffic light tools for common presentations, addition of dementia, pregnancy and mental health, reference to safe-holding.
Respiratory Illness in Children	Revised guideline. ● More information on conveyance/referral pathways/management in the community.
Sickle Cell Crisis	Revised assessment and management table. ● NICE appropriate management pathways are added and there is an update to the tables.
Sepsis	New guideline as part of supplementary guidelines 2017. ● Updated with NEWS2.
Stroke/Transient Ischaemic Attack	This is a revised guideline with the inclusion of childhood stroke and amended signs and symptoms.
Non-traumatic Chest Pain/Discomfort	Revised guideline. ● Features of aneurysm-type pain added. ● Further clarity is added on symptom descriptions. ● An updated management table is included.
Overdose and Poisoning in Adults and Children	A fully updated and revised guideline. Adult and child guidelines merged. ● Inclusion of more details on carbon monoxide poisoning, new signs and symptoms table. ● Revised assessment and management table. ● Revised specific substance management table. ● Inclusion of detail around assessment and management of novel psychoactive substances. ● Awareness and guidance around ingestion of foreign bodies including button battery ingestion. ● Guidance on patients that may not need conveyance to hospital. ● References to use of TOXBASE as per local procedures. ● Naloxone – note very high dose for children, as per BNF, notes around use of Naloxone in end of life care, amended indications. ● Activated charcoal – we are aware that many services are now using activated charcoal, therefore the new monograph has been developed.
Paediatric Gastroenteritis	A traffic light assessment table for clinical dehydration and shock has been added and a decision support tool regarding management in the community.

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SECTION 4	
Trauma	Revisions made in Supplementary Guidelines 2017.
Trauma Emergencies in Adults – Overview	Updated to cover haemorrhage from renal dialysis arteriovenous graft and fistulas included.
Head Injury	Revised guideline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Includes guidance for mild to moderate head injury, new conveyance decision tool. ● Removal of midazolam for traumatic brain injury – for enhanced care team use only.
Limb Trauma	Additional information on open fractures and re-alignment is included.
Burns and Scalds	The adult and child guidelines have been merged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NICE Red Flags are added, as is information on NARU Chemical Burns.

SECTION 5	
Maternity	
Birth Imminent	The description of how to birth the baby’s head in the case of malpresentation has changed to: <p>Head. If the head does not deliver in the semi-recumbent position (with the baby’s body supported on your forearm), <i>apply pressure to the back of the baby’s head with the fingers of your other hand</i>, to aid flexion while the head delivers.</p> Ectopic pregnancy changes.
Haemorrhage During Pregnancy (including Miscarriage and Ectopic Pregnancy)	There have been some minor amendments to the description of the management of ectopic pregnancy.
Pregnancy-induced Hypertension (including Eclampsia)	‘Titrated against effect’ removed with reference to diazepam.

SECTION 6	
Special Situations	This section has been fully reviewed and revised and new guidance re-named: Major, Complex and High-risk incidents. The CBRN medicines ciprofloxacin, dicobalt edetate, doxycycline, obidoxime chloride, potassium iodate, pralidoxime mesylate have been removed.
Police Incapacitants	The incapacitating agent’s guideline has been renamed Police Incapacitants and has been revised.
Atropine	Revised monograph.
Duodote®	New monograph.

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SECTION 7	
Medicines	Updates include changes to monographs to update them in line with new JRCALC guidance and with the current BNF. Reference to the medicines reteplase and tetracaine have been removed.
Activated Charcoal	A new JRCALC monograph on this medicine is published, in line with the revised overdose and poisoning guideline.
Adrenaline	This has been split into two separate monographs: 1 mg in 1 ml (1 in 1,000) and 1 mg in 10 ml (1 in 10,000). This is due to reported incidents of administration of the wrong route/strength.
Amiodarone	This medicine should not be administered for the birth age group. It has been removed from the birth Page for Age.
Atropine Sulfate	More detail has been added to presentation.
Benzylpenicillin	Concentrations have been updated.
Chlorphenamine	Dosages have been updated. ● Dosages for 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and 9 months are now included.
Dexamethasone	Presentations have been updated. ● An oral tablet and an oral solution are listed. Dosages have been updated.
Diazepam	Updated in line with adult convulsions update. Addition of indication for symptomatic cocaine toxicity.
Glucose 10%, Glucose 40% and Glucagon	Medicines monographs have been updated in line with glycaemic emergencies guideline.
GTN, Furosemide and Salbutamol	Amended in line with the revised heart failure and overdose guideline. ● The indication to give salbutamol for LVF has been removed and the indication for furosemide amended. ● For GTN the systolic blood pressure needs to be 110 mmHg to administer GTN for acute heart failure, and a new indication to administer for patients with suspected cocaine toxicity presenting with chest pain has been added to bring this in line with the overdose guideline.
Ibuprofen	Revised monograph, more cautions and contraindications added.
Midazolam	The patient’s own buccal midazolam monograph has been merged with the midazolam monograph. The indication for sedation in combative head injury patients has been removed (this is for enhanced care teams only).
Morphine Sulfate for the Management of Pain in Adults at the End of Life	We have created a new separate monograph specifically for morphine administration for pain management in end of life patients with emphasis that the subcutaneous route is the preferred route for administration.
Naloxone	Revised monograph updated in line with the overdose and poisoning guideline. ● Dosages for younger children have increased. ● Dosage intervals for younger children IV/IO have reduced from 3 minutes to 1 minute. ● Indication for use in cardiac arrest where opioids are the likely cause of arrest.
Tranexamic Acid	Brought in line with the development of an England Patient Group Direction.
Page for Age	Dosages are updated according to the medicines guidelines.