

# Title: “OUT OF GAS”

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## Abstract Content:

It is a challenge for Perioperative staff in a large acute general hospital, such as Cork University Hospital (CUH), to cater for the anaesthetic needs of both adult and paediatric patients. *“There are several anatomical and physiological differences of anaesthetic importance in infants and neonates when compared to adults”* (Subhash, 2004 pg 365). This, coupled with the requirement for specialised equipment in the technical environment of the operating theatre, staff knowledge and competency in using this equipment and in caring for a wide variety of patient groups, further compounds the challenges.

*“The gold standard for the diagnosis and management of an airway foreign body in children is rigid bronchoscopy under general anaesthesia”* (Farrell, 2004 pg 84)

Patient airway management, in particular the management of airway foreign body in children, was identified as an area of concern. A sequence of events to address this concern aimed at improving care for children and their families in the operating theatre department in CUH was undertaken.

This multidisciplinary approach involved Clinical Nurse Mangers, Nurses, Anaesthetists and Surgeons involved in the care of children in CUH – in consultation with staff in the Biomedical, Finance and Procurement departments. The result of this initiative has seen the following improvements:

- ❖ Purchase of relevant airway equipment – Paediatric Rigid Bronchoscopes & Paediatric Oesophageal Scopes.
- ❖ Creation of a **RED ZONE** in the Operating Theatre Department where emergency equipment and instruments are centrally located & stored for ease of staff access
- ❖ Staff Education – for both nursing and medical staff. This education is **Nurse led** by one of the Registered Children’s Nurses within the Operating Theatre Department in CUH, and includes both a presentation and practical instruction on the management of airway foreign body in paediatric patients. Provision of this education has been facilitated and extended to perioperative nursing & medical staff in other Cork Hospitals.

The introduction of rigid bronchoscopes & oesophageal scopes and the associated infrastructure has resulted, not only in ensuring the necessary equipment is available, but in improving staff knowledge, care standards and competence in the management of airway foreign body in children. Optimising patient care outcomes, delivering safe and effective care is central to the Perioperative nursing role (EORNA, 2015)

## References:

EORNA (2015), Position Statements & Guidelines for Perioperative Nursing Practice Part 1

Farrell, P. T. (2004) Rigid bronchoscopy for foreign body removal: anaesthesia and ventilation, *Paediatric Anaesthesia*, vol.14 (1), pp.84-89.

Subhash, A. (2004) Equipment for Paediatric Anaesthesia, *Indian Journal of Anaesthesia*, vol. 48(5): pp.365-71.