**Caldicott Course abstract**

Ensuring the Caldicott principles are upheld in children has particular challenges and complexities. Sharing information with multiagency professionals ensures a joined up approach in paediatric practice which fulfils the best interests of the child. Parents provide consent for those children who are not yet competent to make decisions about their medical information. At times parents may disagree with such information being shared, in which case the child’s best interest must be focussed on. With increasing maturity, children’s view need to be sought and taken into consideration in relation to confidentiality. In some situations, young people may ask information is not shared with their parents.

Transparency in how patient data may be used is another key issue, particularly in the age of readily available data from health records and involvement in national audits. Research in paediatric practice is of overall benefit to children. Where studies are multicentre and patient data may be shared outside the EEI there must be careful examination of the process to ensure confidentiality is not breached. This particularly applies to rare disorders in paediatrics where patient numbers below 10 could lead to patient identification in the event of publication. Working closely with the Information Governance Service is important in providing a comprehensive approach.

The role of Caldicott Guardian in paediatrics requires carefully balancing the different Caldicott principles, always maintaining the focus on the best interest of the child or young person.

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