

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0563
Fax: 028 9052 0574
Email: michael.mcbride@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)54/2009
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HSS(MD)54/2009

Chief Executives, HSC Trusts
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts
(for cascade to all doctors who may manage children including A&E physicians, surgeons, physicians and anaesthetists who may assess and manage children presenting as emergencies)
Medical Director, NIAS
(for cascade to ambulance staff)
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts
(for cascade to nurses in children's wards, A&E units, health visitors)
All General practitioners
(for cascade to practice nurses and treatment room nurses)
Family Practitioner Service Leads HSC Board
(for distribution to GP out of hours services)
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
(for cascade to independent hospitals)
QUB, Head of School of Medicine & Dentistry
QUB, Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery
QU, Head of Nursing Education
UU, Head of School of Nursing
NIMDTA, Post Graduate Dean
NIPEC, Chief Executive
Director, Public Health Agency
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency

Dear Colleagues

SPOTTING THE SICK CHILD

It is recognised that the assessment of an acutely sick child is challenging and requires health care professionals to have the appropriate skills and competencies.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has provided funding to allow clinicians and students in Northern Ireland to access a new internet training "Spotting the Sick Child 2".

This is an interactive training aid in diagnosing illness in children incorporating streaming video and audio - giving access to real life cases using clinical footage to demonstrate the basics of how to approach and assess children of all ages. Individuals can select sections relevant to their own work, and will be able to record which areas they have already covered to allow them to work at their own pace.

The training includes sections on -

- assessing and communicating with children;
- 7 common symptoms including “red flags”;
- links to guidelines;
- interactive cases and self assessments.

Many professionals who deal mostly with adult patients also need to assess and manage children, and we believe that this training will be of help to -

- Students
- Foundation training doctors
- GPs, GP practice based nurses and health visitors
- A&E medical and nursing staff and ambulance staff
- Physicians, surgeons and anaesthetists who mainly work with adults but may see children admitted as emergencies
- Paediatricians, paediatric surgeons and paediatric anaesthetists in training
- Paediatric nurses and nurses who may care for older children in adult wards.

To restrict access to healthcare professionals only, a professional or student ID number (GMC, NMC, HPC etc) is required to log-on and only email addresses ending with “hscni.net” and “ac.uk” will be able to register.

Log-in to URL: <http://www.spottingthesickchild.com/>

We would encourage Trusts, Universities and Training organisations to make relevant staff or students aware of this training opportunity, and to facilitate access to the online training.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Mr Martin Bradley
Chief Nursing Officer