

# Quality Improvement Initiative to Reduce the Number of Children Returning for Repeat General Anaesthetics for Dental Extractions

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## Introduction

Figures released by Public Health England (PHE) revealed that **141 children a day are having a tooth removed** under General anaesthetic (GA). This equates to one child every 10 minutes due to preventable tooth decay. PHE reports that 23.3% of five year olds have dental decay.



## Objective

The objective of the project is to reduce the number of patients returning for repeat GA's for dental extractions. We will aim to ensure that patients and parents receive appropriate advice to help them to make better decisions regarding diet and dental hygiene.

## Stakeholders

Children referred to oral surgery department for extractions  
 Parents of referred children  
 Nurse/Dental Core Trainee (DCT) running prevention clinic  
 Sister/Rota manager to support staff availability  
 Directorate manager/NHS England for funding via business case

## Team

Gemma Burrows - QI project lead  
 Annalise McNair - Departmental clinical lead  
 Jo Davies - Sister  
 Dental Nurse/DCT's - delivering prevention clinic

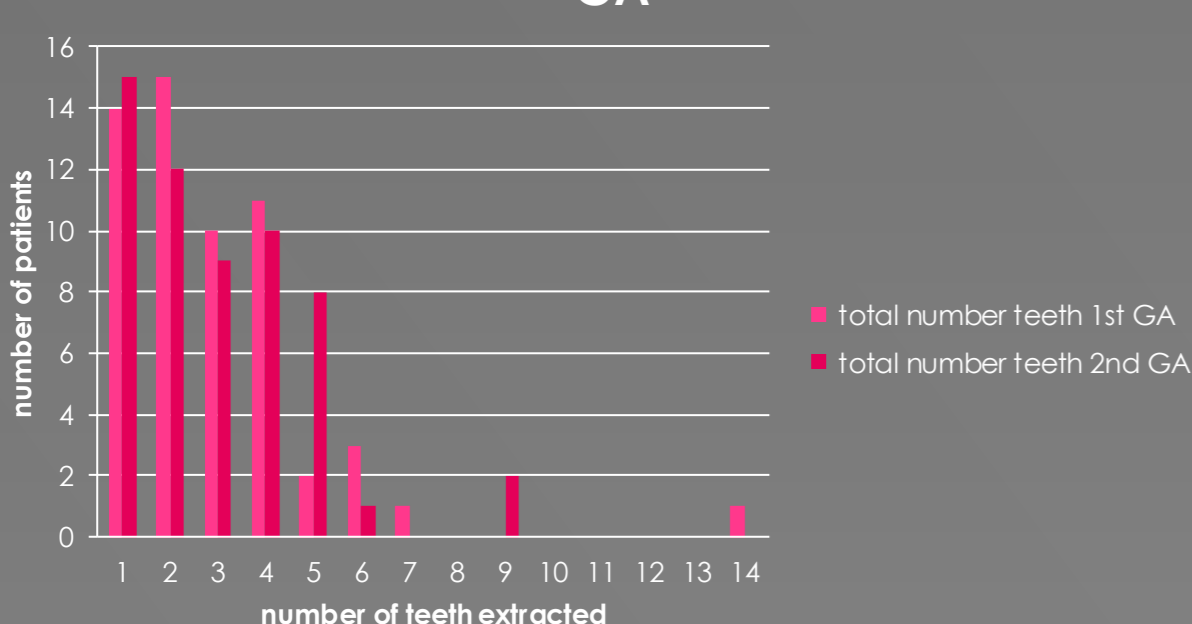
## Baseline Measurements

Baselines were obtained via audit of children having repeat GA's for dental extractions. Data was gathered from December 2015-February 2018.

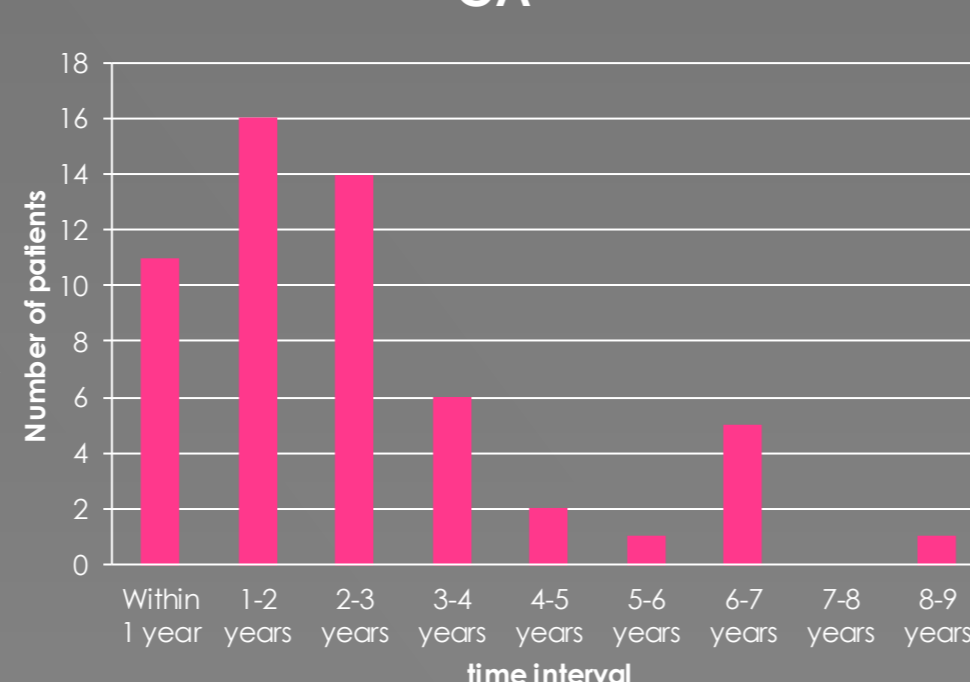
**9.7% of children returned for a repeat GA for removal of additional decayed teeth.**

A further 0.4% subsequently returned for a 3<sup>rd</sup> GA.

Number of Teeth extracted in 1st and 2nd GA



Time Interval Between 1st and 2nd GA



## Pilot Study

To assess patients'/parents' perception of current service and assess opinion on the concept of a prevention clinic, a pilot survey was given out. 100% were happy with the advice they were given but 48% felt a little more time discussing diet and tooth brushing would be helpful  
**"The info they gave me was amazing! Most of it I was unaware of"**

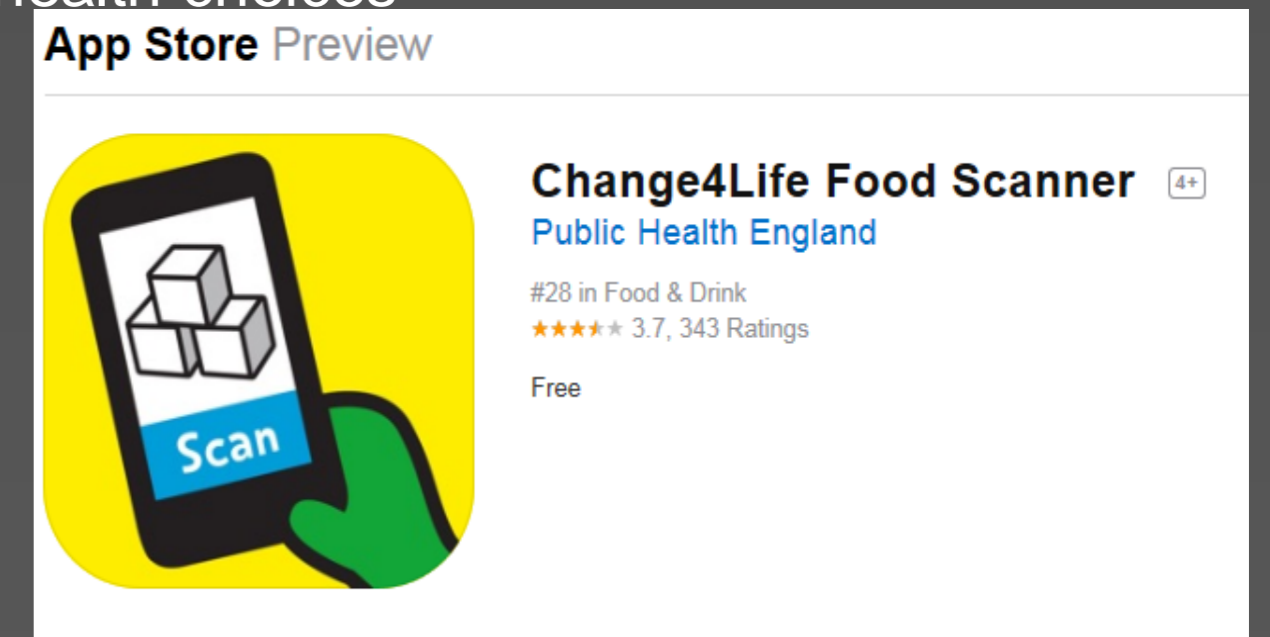
**"I believe that I was given amazing info about diet and tooth brushing, thank you"**

## Proposed Change

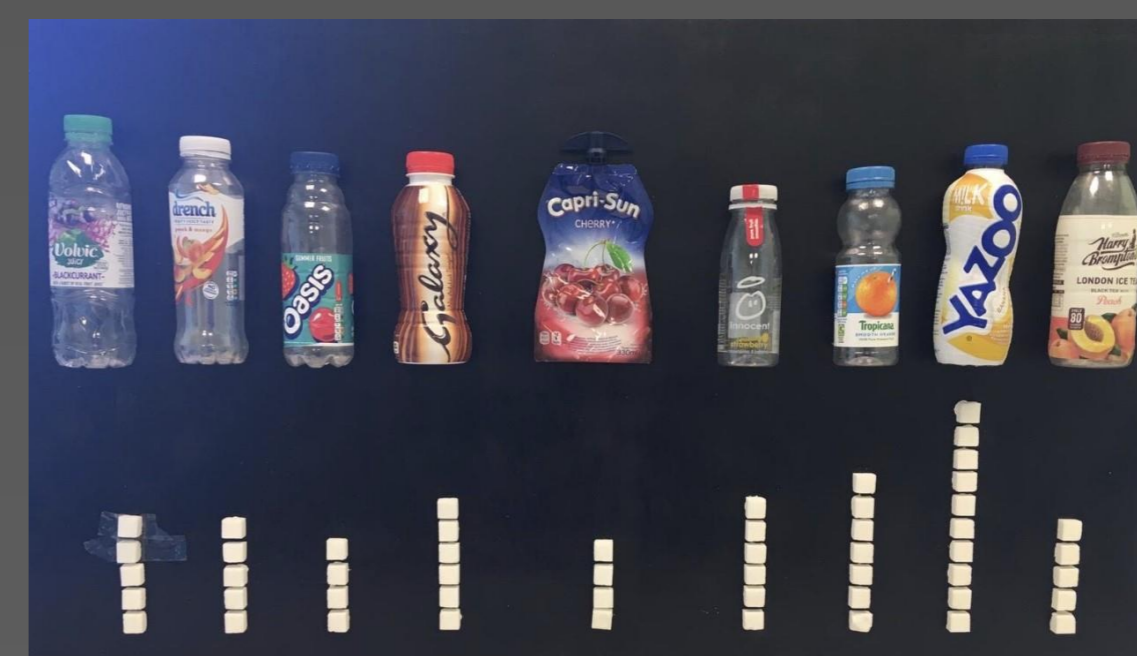
Additional prevention clinic to run alongside new patient clinic to allow more time to discuss diet and oral hygiene, and new screening radiographs pre-operatively

## Prevention Clinic

Nurse or DCT led clinic providing information and "goodie bags" to help promote good oral health choices



Examples of leaflets and apps recommended in clinic



Sugar educational tool used in clinic

## Difficulties Experienced

- Funding - the cost for 'goodie bags' was £430 p.a. Funding via a business case at SDH was unsuccessful, but was eventually provided by the Stars Appeal hospital charity.
- Staffing levels - We have been short staffed making it impossible to staff the new clinic. New staff have now been appointed.
- Radiographs - The purchase of new equipment and problems with the sterilization protocol has caused lengthy delays in implementation.

## Achievements

- ★ Set up new prevention clinic
- ★ Obtained funding
- ★ Successful purchase of new radiography equipment
- ★ Strong links with other departments within Salisbury District Hospital and the wider community

## Assessing Success?

It will not be possible to see any improvements in repeat GA rates for at least 2 years. However:

A questionnaire will be distributed to patients/parents to find out their perceptions of the clinic in the short term and any recommendations for further improvement.

## The Path Ahead and Connections Made

Since embarking on this QI project I have formed strong connections within the hospital and wider community:

- We are collaborating with the safeguarding team to pilot a new pathway to identify and assess neglect and to support families, where dental neglect is identified.
- Oral Health Prevention team and children's centres to follow up children who've had teeth extracted and reinforce prevention advice.
- Salisbury District Hospital - The current ongoing strategy includes an emphasis on identifying dental neglect in other parts of the hospital including the children's ward and outpatients, and helping to provide advice.