

Focus group questions guide (healthcare providers)

1. What is your experience of deteriorating patients admitted on the hospital acute care wards?
2. Imagine you are called for a 3 month old child admitted to a Pediatric ward for acute diarrhea. The child keeps having frequent loose stools for the following 12 hours. After 4 hours from admission the BedsidePEWS=4. At night you are being called to treat a condition of compensated shock (the heart rate and capillary refill are increased, the blood pressure is normal, the BedsidePEWS score= 7). You consult the PICU and after administering a bolus of fluids the vital signs improve. What factors might have contributed to the recognition, referral and treatment of this child, preventing further deterioration and possibly a PICU urgent admission?
3. Imagine a scenario of a deteriorating patient who is not recognized, referred or treated on time, who is urgently admitted to PICU. Imagine five year old child, who has a chronic kidney failure. The child is transferred to the ward from PICU. Her BedsidePEWS at ward admission is =5. After a few hours the child deteriorates. The BedsidePEWS increases up to 9. Her systolic blood pressure is below normal ranges, the heart rate, work of breathing and respiratory rate is increased and is on high flow oxygen. After 24 hours the PICU is called and the child is urgently transferred to PICU. What factors might have contributed to the failure of timely recognition of deterioration, referral and treatment of this child, not preventing a PICU readmission?
4. Do you have other ideas or opinions which haven't been already discussed, about factors that may contribute to the timely recognition, referral or treatment of a deteriorating child admitted on a hospital ward or its failure?

Focus group questions guide (parents)

1. What is your experience of your child's hospital admission on an acute care ward?
2. What is your experience of the healthcare providers' response to your child's clinical deterioration during the ward admission?
3. Imagine your child isn't breathing normally or not responding as usual, during ward admission. What, in your opinion, would facilitate the healthcare providers' response to your child's needs? What would be an obstacle, instead?
4. What would you expect from healthcare providers when your child's condition is deteriorating? What would you change?