

# Educational experience of Paediatric Specialty Trainees in outpatient clinic settings. Is there room for improvement?

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## Background

Outpatient clinic experience is vital to paediatric specialty training, especially given current trends towards managing patients on an outpatient basis. Standardised provision for outpatient clinic training can be beneficial.

## Aims

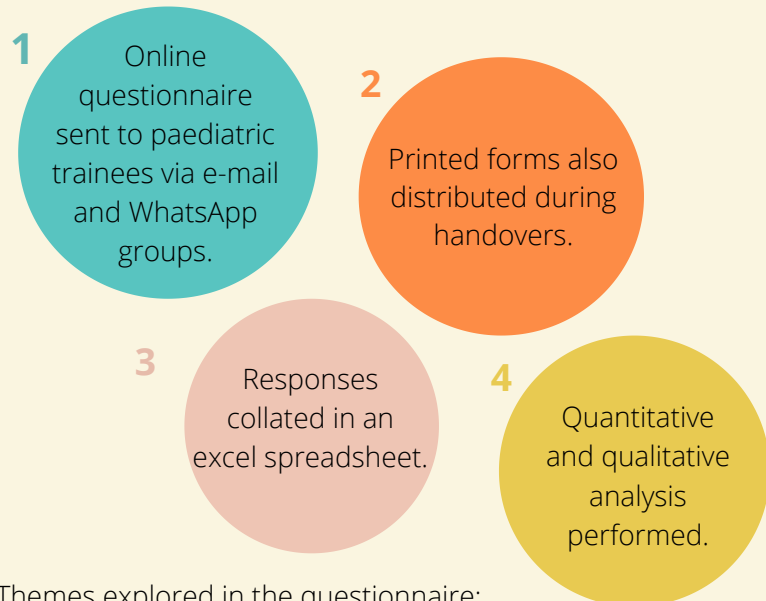
### To evaluate:

- Paediatric trainees' outpatient clinic experience at a tertiary paediatric centre, Alder Hey Children's Hospital (AHCH).
- Educational opportunities or barriers to achieving training within this context.

### To quantify:

- The average number of outpatient clinics attended.

## Methods



Themes explored in the questionnaire:

- Gender, working status, specialty and training grade
- Opportunities/ barriers and roles during outpatient clinic experience
- Educational activities and future developments in that context

## Results



Data were collected pre-COVID19 and refer to face-to-face outpatient clinics.

**32** responses in total (62.7% of paediatric trainees in AHCH)

All medical specialties & training levels represented

- 53%** scheduled by timetable to attend outpatient clinic
- 63%** attended outpatient clinic 1-2 times/ month
- 50%** worried that they would let colleagues down/ leave unfinished work on the ward



ST1-ST3 level: **42%** observing role  
ST4 - ST8 level: **35%** assigned patients from consultant's list, **30%** had own patient list

### Educational aspect:

- 38%** - Assessment opportunities
- 34%** - Received feedback



Overall outpatient clinic experience rating:

**7/10**



### Future developments:

- 75%** - Scheduled clinics
- 66%** - Teaching clinics

## Conclusions:

- Opportunities for outpatient clinic attendance in AHCH are present but not on a regular basis.
- Barriers including anxiety leaving ward duties and/ or unfinished work on the ward.
- Increased utilisation of remote clinics may improve room availability and should be considered in revised curriculum.
- Educational opportunities in 1/3 of cases.
- Suggested future developments including scheduled clinics and teaching clinics.
- An App has been designed to increase outpatient clinic opportunities and assist with the establishment of designated teaching clinics.