

OPEL Definitions

Whilst the following is not an exhaustive list, it should serve as a guide as to what your paediatric areas OPEL status currently is. If you are part of a Trust that has multiple / separate areas (HDU, PICU), then only rate the area you are submitting figures on; ie if you are submitting for an HDU, only consider whats happening there, not the wards (or PICU if you have one). That way we will get a clearer picture of where the strain is within the paediatric service within Trusts

OPEL 1:

Demand for services within normal parameters

There is capacity available for the expected emergency and elective demand.

No technological difficulties impacting on patient care

Infection control issues monitored and deemed within normal parameters

No staffing issues identified

OPEL 2:

Insufficient discharges to create capacity for the expected elective and emergency activity

Opening of escalation beds likely (in addition to those already in use)

Infection control issues emerging

Lower levels of staff available but are sufficient to maintain services

Lack of beds across the area you are submitting figures on

OPEL 3:

Patient flow significantly compromised

Awaiting equipment causing delays for a number of other patients

Significant unexpected reduced staffing numbers (due to e.g. sickness, weather conditions) in areas where this causes increased pressure on patient flow

Problems reported with Support Services (IT, Transport, Facilities Pathology etc.) that cannot be rectified within 2 hours

OPEL 4:

No capacity across the area you are completing figures on

Emergency care pathway significantly compromised

Unexpected reduced staffing numbers (due to e.g. sickness, weather conditions) in areas where this causes increased pressure on patient flow is at a level that compromises service provision / patient safety

Infectious illness, Norovirus, severe weather

Problems reported with Support Services (IT, Transport, Facilities Pathology etc.) that cannot be rectified within 4 hours