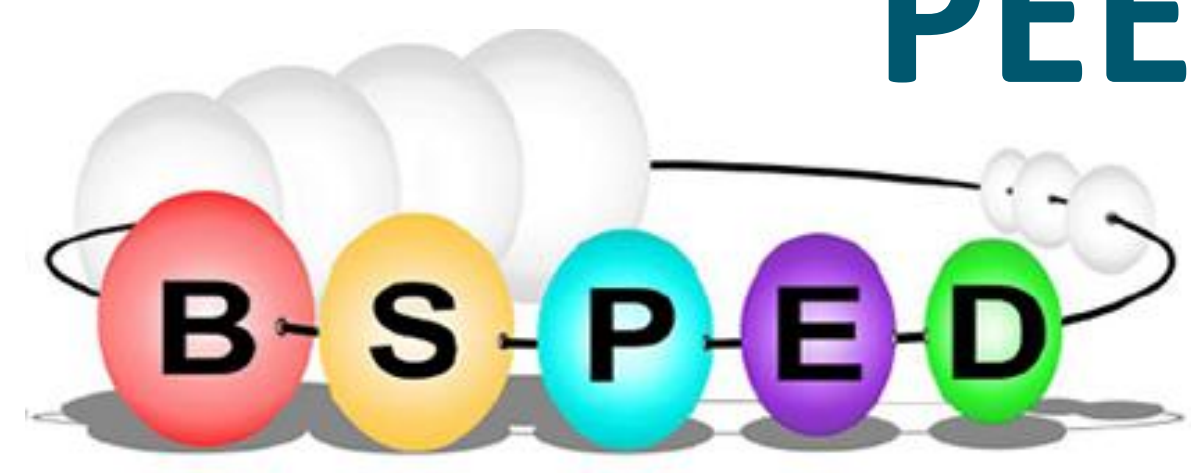


# PEER REVIEW OF SPECIALISED PAEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY SERVICES IN THE UK - EVALUATION OF THE PROCESS



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## Introduction

The BSPED Peer review programme was developed to provide a regular cycle of independent objective professional assessment of specialist paediatric endocrine services, against agreed quality standards for Specialised Paediatric Endocrine Services (SPES) in the UK.<sup>1</sup>

The aim is to promote best quality of care and continuous improvements in services for children and young people with endocrine disorders requiring National Health Service treatment at a SPES.

We present here an evaluation of the process during this first review cycle.

## Methods

We examined:

- The format, process and documentation of the review process.
- SPES experiences from questionnaires taken immediately and at least six months after the peer review.

## Results

20 BSPED members were designated to undertake the reviews. All 22 SPES (England 18; Scotland 2; Wales 1; Northern Ireland 1) participated. All reviews were completed between 2011 to 2017. All SPES reported that the quality standards were appropriate, the assessment from the review process was fair and it motivated engagement in quality improvements.

- A Peer Review Officer was appointed by the BSPED to oversee the planning and delivery of this programme.
- SPES were assessed against the BSPED Quality Standards<sup>1</sup>. These comprise 54 criteria, categorised as essential and desirable, in five domains.

Information about the SPES to assess against these criteria was obtained from the following:

1. a self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) completed by the SPES lead.
2. SAQ completed by paediatricians in linked secondary care hospitals.
3. A one-day SPES visit by a BSPED review team consisting of:
  - a senior paediatric endocrinologist.
  - a general paediatrician with special interest in endocrinology.
  - a specialist paediatric endocrine nurse.

The SPES visit date was planned at least six months in advance, and comprised interviews with key professionals, trainees and patients, inspection of facilities and review of documents (e.g. medical records, protocols, patient information).

- SPES experiences were obtained from questionnaires immediately and at least six months after the review.
- Conclusions and recommendations of the assessment were conveyed to the SPES professionals and senior managers face-to-face at the end of the visit and in a written report within four weeks.

## Table of Quality Standards Domains

BSPED Quality Standards Domains	Essential criteria	Desirable criteria
1. Access to Specialised Paediatric Endocrine Services	11	8
2. Resources of Specialised Paediatric Endocrine Services	5	3
3. Environment and facilities, care of the child, family and patient experience	5	3
4. Communication	4	5
5. Clinical governance, professional education and training, and evidence base	6	4

## Table of Grading of Quality Standards

Grading of BSPED Quality Standards	Definition
<b>Exceeded</b>	Very good practice
<b>Met</b>	Evidence or information which shows the criterion is being met
<b>Unmet</b>	Evidence or information which shows the criterion is not being met
<b>No supporting evidence</b>	No supporting evidence provided by the SPES
<b>Not applicable</b>	Criterion not applicable to this SPES

## Table of Participating Centres

<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>15. Sheffield</b>
1. Birmingham	<b>16. Southampton</b>
2. Bristol	<b>17. St George's Hospital, London</b>
3. Cambridge	<b>18. The Evelina (Guy's &amp; Thomas')</b>
4. Chelsea and Westminster	<b>WALES</b>
5. King's College Hospital	<b>19. Cardiff</b>
6. Leeds	<b>SCOTLAND</b>
7. Leicester	<b>20. Glasgow</b>
8. Liverpool	<b>21. Edinburgh</b>
9. London Great Ormond Street	<b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b>
10. Manchester	<b>22. Belfast</b>
11. Newcastle	
12. Nottingham	
13. Oxford	
14. Royal London Hospital (Barts')	

## Conclusions

This BSPED activity aimed at promoting the quality of SPES in the UK demonstrates the feasibility and acceptability of establishing a nationwide Peer Review programme.

The model could also be used by international professional societies such as ESPE or European Reference Networks such as Endo-ERN.

## References

<sup>1</sup>BSPED. UK Standards for Paediatric Endocrinology, 2010. <https://www.bsped.org.uk/media/1370/bspedpaediatricendocrinestandardsvs130710.pdf>

