

Boulos, N¹ and Salvin, C¹
¹Southampton Children's Hospital
 Correspondence to Nabil.Boulos@uhs.nhs.uk

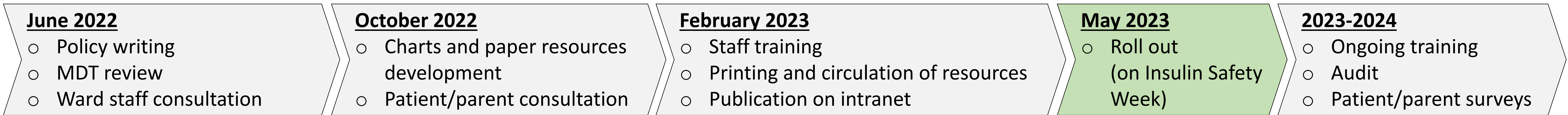
Insulin remains a common cause of clinical incidents leading to patient distress or harm in hospitals [1]. Patients with diabetes or their adult carers are recognised as experts in their condition, and often have greater knowledge of managing their diabetes than non-specialist hospital staff.

This project aims to implement the practice of diabetes self-management for paediatric inpatients at a large teaching hospital.

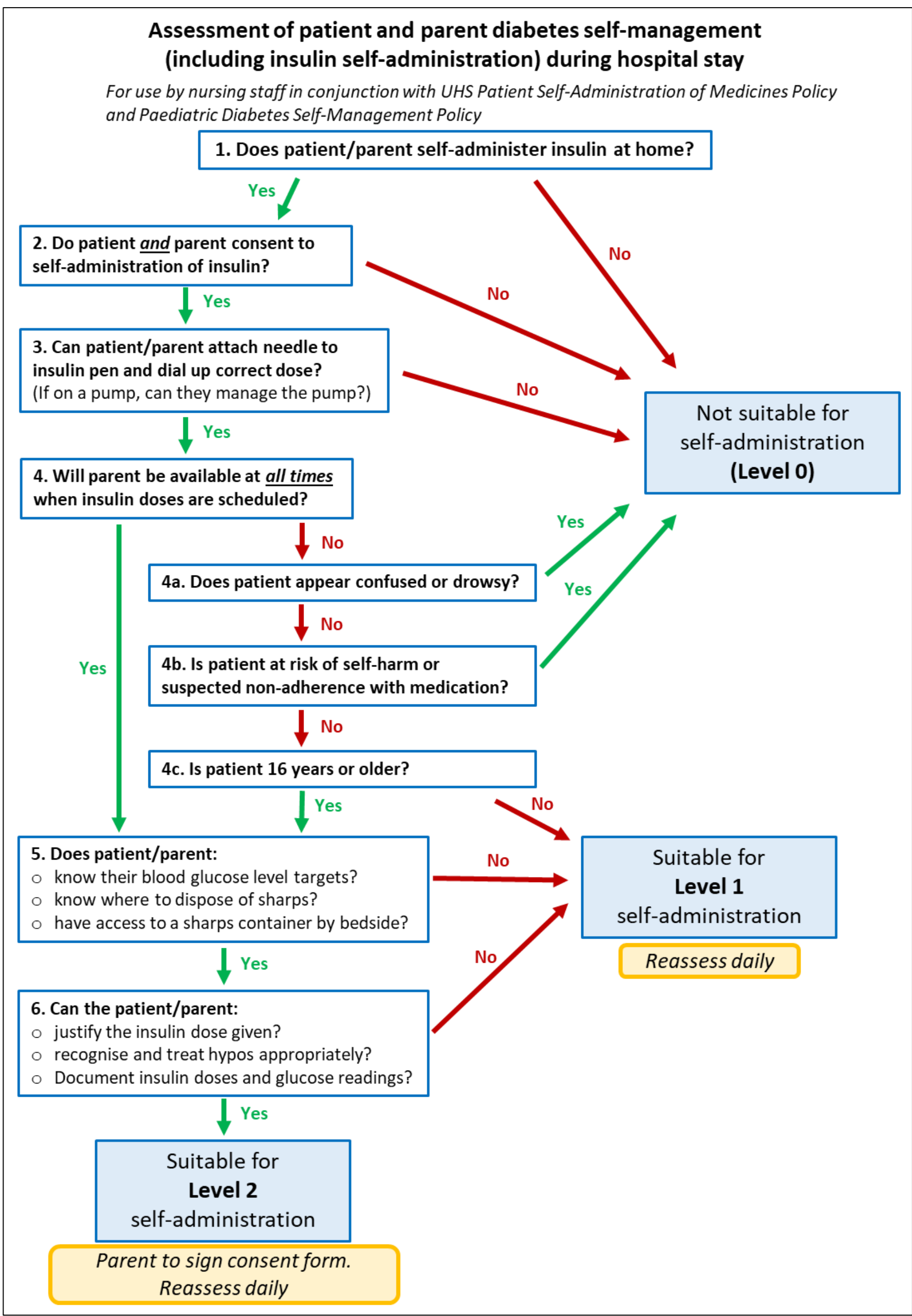
The objectives are to improve insulin safety on the ward and empower families to safely take ownership of their diabetes management, if they prefer.

The project was undertaken over 12 months in phases (*figure 1*). Policy, risk assessments, stages of self-management and diabetes chart (*figure 2*) were developed in line with national guidance [2,3].

The process was successfully implemented across all 12 paediatric inpatient areas. Ward staff demonstrated good knowledge of the new practice.



	Level 0 <i>Fully hospital-led</i>	Level 1 <i>Patient/carer administration with nurse supervision</i>	Level 2 <i>Fully patient/carer-led</i>
Stores insulin/ancillaries in bedside/POD locker	Nurse	Nurse	Patient
Monitors blood glucose	Nurse	Nurse	Patient and Nurse
Decides on insulin dose	Nurse	Nurse	Patient
Attaches needle and dials the dose	Nurse	Patient (with nurse supervision)	Patient
Administers insulin	Nurse	Patient (with nurse supervision)	Patient
Documents all glucose readings and insulin doses	Nurse	Nurse	Patient (with nurse supervision)

[illegible]

- To our knowledge, this is the first initiative in the UK to integrate the full scope of diabetes self-management, insulin self-administration and documentation of diabetes care in a paediatric hospital setting.
- The policy enabled the diabetes team the opportunity to train and upskill ward-based clinical staff.
- Future work will focus on a clinical audit to evaluate the utility of the paperwork produced; patient and parent surveys to gain the families' perspectives; and monitoring of incidents and errors to assess the safety impact of the policy.

1. Cousins D, Rosario C, and Scarpello J. Insulin, hospitals and Harm: a review of patient safety incidents reported to the National Patient Safety Agency. *Clin Med* 2011;11, 1: 28-30.
2. Association of Children's Diabetes Clinicians (ACDC). A practical approach to the self management of diabetes as an inpatient for children and young people under 18 years, 2023. Online at: <http://www.a-c-d-c.org/endorsed-guidelines/>
3. Joint British Diabetes Societies for Inpatient Care (JBDS-IP). Self-management of diabetes in hospital, 2023. Online at: <https://abcd.care/resource/jbds-04-self-management-diabetes-hospital>