

# Local Guideline



## Use of Bravery Beads

<b>Sites where Local Guideline applies</b>	JHCH
<b>This Local Guideline applies to:</b>	
1. Adults	No
2. Children up to 16 years	Yes
3. Neonates – less than 29 days	No
<b>Target audience</b>	Nursing, Medical and Allied Health staff
<b>Description</b>	Guideline for the use of bravery beads for children with complex and chronic health conditions being treated at John Hunter Children's Hospital

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<b>Keywords</b>	Beads, Bravery, Paediatric, Chronic
<b>Document registration number</b>	
<b>Replaces existing document?</b>	Yes
<b>Registration number and dates of superseded documents</b>	JHCH 11.14 2015
<b>Related Legislation, Australian Standard, NSW Ministry of Health Policy Directive or Guideline, National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard (NSQHSS) and/or other, HNE Health Document, Professional Guideline, Code of Practice or Ethics:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Competition &amp; Consumer Commission, Product Safety Australia: Toys for children up to and including 36 months of age. Available online at: <a href="https://www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/toys-for-children-up-to-and-including-36-months-of-age">https://www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/toys-for-children-up-to-and-including-36-months-of-age</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Local Guideline note</b>	<p>This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe and appropriate practice. The procedure/s <b>require mandatory compliance</b>. If staff believe that the procedure/s should not apply in a particular clinical situation they must seek advice from their unit manager/delegate and document the variance in the patient's health record.</p> <p>If this document needs to be utilised outside of JHCH please liaise with the contact person to ensure the appropriateness of the information contained within the procedure</p>
<b>Position responsible for the Local Guideline and authorised by</b>	Pat Marks – General Manager / Director of Nursing CYPFS
<b>Contact person</b>	Michelle Perrin
<b>Contact details</b>	Michelle.perrin@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au
<b>Date authorised</b>	
<b>This document contains advice on therapeutics</b>	No
<b>Issue date</b>	March 2018
<b>Review date</b>	March 2021

Note: Over time links in this document may cease working. Where this occurs please source the document in the PPG Directory at: <http://ppg.hne.health.nsw.gov.au/>

## PURPOSE AND RISKS

The bravery beads program is designed to provide acknowledgement of the experiences chronically ill patients face as they receive treatment at John Hunter Children's Hospital. Children and young people collect different beads representing individual procedures and milestones whilst visiting hospital or receiving specific treatments at home. Each patient's collection of beads represents the child and family's unique and personal journey.

Risk: There is a potential for choking/strangulation for young children

The risk is minimised by

- providing beads and thread to parents and/or caregivers of children under three years of age
- storing the beads in closed containers out of reach of young children
- providing beads to school-age children in the presence of their parent and/or caregiver

**Risk Category:** Clinical Care & Patient Safety

## GLOSSARY

Acronym or Term	Definition
Bravery Beads	Individual coloured beads used to represent specific clinical procedures, treatment and milestones for children with chronic or long-term illness
Bravery beads legend	Flyer documenting the beads used and the clinical procedure or treatment it represents

## GUIDELINE

This Guideline does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgment in respect to each individual patient.

Patients diagnosed with a chronic or long-term illness may be commenced on the bravery bead program shortly after diagnosis, or during treatment at the discretion of the staff. On commencement of the program the staff member must explain the choking risk of small beads for young children to the parent/caregiver and document this in the patient's medical record. On commencement the patient will receive coloured beads to spell their first name and string to begin their bravery beads collection. In addition to this the child/young person and the parent/caregiver will be given a bravery beads legend.

Beads are given to patients and/or their parent/caregiver by staff to acknowledge clinical procedures, treatment, and milestones as described in the bravery beads legend.

Beads **MUST NOT** be directly given to children under three years of age. For young children and infants beads must be given to the parent/caregiver to ensure safety of the patient.

### Staff Preparation

It is mandatory for staff to follow relevant: "Five moments of hand hygiene", infection control, moving safely/safe manual handling, documentation practices and to use HAIDET for patient/carer communication: **H**and hygiene **A**cknowledge, **I**ntroduce, **D**uration, **E**xplanation, **T**hank you or closing comment.

## **IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT**

To ensure compliance with this document:

- all additional staff who will be responsible with disseminating bravery beads will be orientated to this guideline and the associated risks during induction by the relevant Clinical Nurse Consultant
- any concerns or issues with the process raised by staff or families will be addressed in a timely manner

## **APPENDICES**

### **CONSULTATION**

#### **1. Child Life Therapy:**

- Michelle Perrin: Head of Department – Music, Art & Child Life Therapy - JHCH
- Veronica Oakley: Child Life Therapist - Music, Art & Child Life Therapy - JHCH

#### **2. Nursing**

- Carol Doherty: Clinical Nurse Consultant – Children's Cancer and Haematology Service - JHCH
- Michelle Neylan: Clinical Nurse Consultant – Diabetes - JHCH
- Linda Cheese: Clinical Nurse Consultant – Respiratory - JHCH

### **FEEDBACK**

Any feedback on this document should be sent to the Contact Officer listed on the front page.