Guidelines for the management of school children following cleft surgery requiring lateral flow testing before returning to school.

1. Children should be away from school for a minimum of 2-3 weeks post surgery – isolating where possible
2. No lateral flow swabs or PCR swabs during this time
3. Review by Clinical Nurse Specialist for Cleft at 2-3 weeks to review healing either virtually or home visit.
4. Clinical Nurse Specialist for Cleft to support parents and young people in undertaking lateral flow swabbing, demonstrating and explaining to parent and young people safe use of swab
5. For children following palate repair, buccinators/buccal flaps -Swab to be taken orally only where the back of the throat can be fully visualised, avoiding the surgically repaired area. **No nasal swabs** to be taken for minimum of 8 weeks following palate surgery to ensure that the nasal area internally has healed sufficiently.
6. For children who have had Hynes pharyngoplasties swabs to be taken nasally under supervision and with guidance from the Clinical Nurse Specialist for Cleft.

**No oral swabs** to be taken for minimum of 8 weeks following Hynes pharyngoplasties to ensure that the area has healed sufficiently.

1. Any concerns with healing, infection etc. then children should remain at home, remain isolated and swabs should not be taken, until affected areas have sufficiently healed.

Should you have any concerns please contact your Clinical nurse specialist directly or the Bleep holder for the Clinical Nurse Specialist on 01223 596272 who will advise.

Thank you for your co-operation

Peri Codling

Lead clinical Nurse specialist Cleft.Net.East