

Curriculum Vitae

Hester Taekema
MD (Hons), MSc, MRCPCH

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Hester Christianne Taekema

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Date of Birth: 6th January 1977

Nationality: Dutch, British

GMC: 6057726, full registration with licence to practise
On Specialist Register from Feb 2017

PRIMARY MEDICAL QUALIFICATION

Artsexamen (MD) University of Groningen, Netherlands March 2002

POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS and CERTIFICATES

MSc in Medical Science (University of Groningen)	March 2002
Member of Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	March 2007
Advanced Paediatric Life Support instructor	June 2015 - present
Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate (family court)	October 2026

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Consultant Acute and General Paediatrician, with special expertise in Allergy Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (was University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust until 1 July 2026)	2017 - present
Paediatric Safeguarding Service Consultant Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	2021 – present
Clinical Lead for Weston Paediatrics Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	2020 – April 2026

Professional memberships

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

Association of Child Protection Professionals

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE**Acute Paediatrics**

Acute paediatric care is a large part of my consultant duties. I work across two sites of Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. I am on the attending consultant rota for general paediatrics at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, a tertiary children's hospital. I manage large caseloads encompassing high dependency and complex care, as well as joint care for regional burns and spinal surgery patients, and providing consults for surgical and orthopaedic cases. At Weston General Hospital, I lead its short stay paediatric assessment and ambulatory care unit and support the Emergency Department. This set-up means my skills overlap largely with those of a Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultant (minus trauma care).

My current consultant duties built on my UK registrar and New Zealand fellowship training which focussed much on paediatric intensive care, retrieval and paediatric emergency medicine.

I have been an Advanced Paediatric Life Support instructor since 2015, which means I have kept up to date with acute and resuscitation skills, and am also immediately aware of changes in resuscitation-related recommendations and practice over the years.

I was the Bristol NHS Foundation Trust clinical lead for Weston paediatrics services from 2020 until April 2026. I delivered an increase in consultant numbers from 3 to 7 and managed the change from a mostly general paediatrics service to an acute and general paediatrics service, working closely with

our Weston Emergency Department colleagues to deliver excellent emergency care to the children of North Somerset. The aim is always to deliver excellent care closer to home. I have been the link consultant between Weston Paediatrics and Weston Emergency Medicine since 2017, a role that aims to ever increase close working and seamless care transition between the two departments.

Safeguarding/Child Protection

As safeguarding is part of all aspects of paediatrics, I have managed child protection cases throughout my career. In 2021, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston trust set up a Safeguarding Consultant duty team, to better meet the needs of the hospital patient population and its staff. A tertiary children's hospital will by its nature have a wide range of safeguarding issues, from burns and trauma cases due to abuse or neglect, patients in whom mental health presentations and social care issues overlap, as well as undifferentiated emergency presentations where safeguarding may or may not play a part. I have been part of this consultant team, working closely together with safeguarding nursing and midwifery staff, from its inception.

This consultant role broadly splits into two different duties: 1. assess and manage safeguarding cases within the Trust; 2. deliver safeguarding training, including Safeguarding Level 3 updates, for hospital medical and nursing staff.

Managing safeguarding cases involves assessment, guiding management plans, arranging investigations, attending strategy meetings on behalf of 'Health' along the police and social care, writing Child Protection medical reports, ensuring safe discharge from hospital and following up on results post-discharge. I am the safeguarding liaison consultant for the Bristol Eye Hospital and Weston Emergency department; I provide them with safeguarding advice or any training needs that arise within their departments.

I deliver training for different medical and nursing staff groups, tailored to their needs. Recent examples are case discussions during an ENT departmental meeting, general level 3 update for trust Consultants, safeguarding simulation training for resident doctors.

I keep up to date by attending regular peer review meetings within the safeguarding team and quarterly peer review meetings attended by General Paediatrics and Community Paediatrics. I hold membership of the Association of Child Protection Professionals and regularly attend their training updates.

General Paediatrics

Inpatient care at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children includes looking after the secondary care needs of children living in Bristol and the immediate surrounding counties, including managing children with mental health presentations in conjunction with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and social care.

My outpatient general paediatrics clinics in North Somerset cover all presentations referred to general paediatrics. The levels of local deprivation often limit families' ability to travel to Bristol for specialist care, frequently leading to a shared care model with tertiary specialists or managing patients with remote support from tertiary teams.

Allergy

I am part of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children tertiary allergy team, as a secondary care allergy specialist. This means I participate in multidisciplinary team meetings, professional discussions and have access to resources. I am the clinical decision-maker for North Somerset allergy patients. The Weston General Hospital paediatric day unit allows me to conduct skin prick testing, food challenges, supervised feeds and adrenaline device training. I attend allergy conferences in the UK and abroad on at least an annual basis. We are currently developing the Weston site as a research site for allergy studies.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Advanced Paediatric Life Support instructor (since 2015)

General Instructor Course instructor candidate (commenced 2026)

Safeguarding level 3 updates trainer for Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (since 2021)

Safeguarding simulation trainer at Bristol Medical Simulation Centre (since 2021)

Acute paediatrics simulation trainer at Bristol Medical Simulation Centre (since 2010)

This experience was built upon a solid foundation of simulation trainers' training, including human factors training, at Bristol Medical Simulation Centre since 2010. The General Instructor Course is the access course, recognised by Advanced Life Support Group and the Resuscitation Council UK, for becoming an advanced life support instructor. I am in the process of becoming a trainer on this course.

CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The following are recent examples of projects I supervised or carried out. This is not a comprehensive list of QI and clinical governance activity I was involved in and is merely meant to give a flavour.

Improving pain management in children (<16 years) with fractures in the Emergency Department, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (2025-2026)

Supervisor of audit carried out by trainees. Accepted for a poster presentation at the Royal College of Emergency Medicine annual conference, April 2026, as "Improving pain management in children".

Adherence to child safeguarding documentation in Weston emergency department , University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (2022)

Supervisor of audit carried out by trainee. Reception staff performed background checks as per SOP. Medical and nursing staff screening questions mostly not completed. Since this audit, safeguarding children procedures in ED are part of ED resident induction.

Are children with asthma under general paediatrics at the Seashore centre receiving care in line with NICE quality standards?, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (2020)

Departmental audit, re-audit from 2018. Much improved adherence to standards including individual asthma plans given out in clinic.

Does resuscitation training for junior doctors improve self-efficacy in managing acutely unwell children? University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (2018)

Supervised QI project. I delivered the simulation-based resuscitation training. Trainee doctors helped me run it and administered self-efficacy questionnaires before and after each session, as well as after trainees completed all 6 resuscitation training sessions. We found much improved self-efficacy, used as a marker for improved competence. The findings were used as evidence for the need of ongoing simulation-based training in Weston ED.

RESEARCH and RESEARCH-RELATED SKILLS

- NEAR4KIDS Centre Supervisor for Starship Hospital, Auckland, NZ (2014-2015) NEAR4KIDS is a multi-centre, international, prospective airway register and quality improvement tool. It aims to improve clinical care and safety for children undergoing advanced airway management. Initially focussing on PICU, it now includes Emergency Department care and intubations on retrieval and transport. I was responsible for inputting data and submitting quarterly reports to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) where the project originates. Based on the data analysis and benchmarking information, I identified areas for improvement and implemented QI initiatives, with support of ED and PICU consultants.
- Recruiter for various multi-centre trials: Natasha trial (Using Commonly Available Food Products to Treat Food Allergy), DREAM ((desensitisation in infants with cow's milk allergy), Aphirst (Australasian Paediatric Head Injury Rules Study), WAIT trial (Wheeze and Intermittent Treatment), BIDS (Bronchiolitis in Infancy Discharge Study), CATCH trial (Catheter Infections in Children). My role: identification of patients that meet inclusion criteria, (deferred) consent and enrolment.
- Clinical Researcher at Oberon Consultancy, London
This is a pharmaceutical consultancy, providing project-to-project advice to pharmaceutical companies. Examples of projects I was involved in include writing the manuscript for a new drug

and editing Serious Adverse Event (SAE) reporting for a clinical trial. This part-time job provided me with invaluable insight in how clinical drug trials are run, ways of processing, analysing and interpreting data and the importance of research governance.

- Research assistant at the department of Neurophysiology (1995-1997)

This led to the following publication:

The activation of back muscles during locomotion in the developing rat.

A Gramsbergen, HC Geisler, **H Taekema**, LA van Eykern. **Brain Res Dev Brain Res. 1999 Feb 5;112(2):217-28.**

- Research project (6 months) at De La Salle University, School of Special Studies, Manila, Philippines (1998)

This resulted in my Master's thesis "It's not about hearing aids. Why the Filipino Deaf need their own HIV and sexual health education program."

PUBLICATIONS

Family Presence during Pediatric Tracheal Intubations

RC Sanders Jr., ST Nett, K Finn Davis, MM Parker, GK Bysani, et al. For the National Emergency Airway Registry for Children (NEAR4KIDS) Investigators and Pediatric Acute Lung Injury and Sepsis Investigators (PALISI) Network. Accepted by **JAMA Pediatrics**.

Sedation by Surgeons: Is patient safety being compromised by non-anaesthetists?

PR Landham, U Butt, A Sanaullah, **HC Taekema** and A Shawky Eid. **BJMP 2011;4(2):a421**

Towards evidence based medicine for paediatricians. Distinguishing between transient synovitis and septic arthritis in the limping child: how useful are clinical prediction tools?

HC Taekema, PR Landham, I Maconochie. **Arch Dis Child. 2009 Feb;94(2):167-8**

The activation of back muscles during locomotion in the developing rat.

Gramsbergen A, Geisler HC, **Taekema H**, Van Eykern LA. **Brain Res Dev Brain Res. 1999 Feb 5;112(2):217-28.**

PRESENTATIONS

Improving pain management in children

Poster presentation

Royal College of Emergency Medicine annual conference, April 2026, Birmingham, UK

Spotting The Sick Child; A proposed change to improve paediatric resuscitation outcomes in a small district general hospital.

Poster presentation

Health Education England South West, Quality & Safety: Achieving Better Care – June 2018

And.....ACTION! Action Cards to Improve Efficiency of Emergency Intubations in a Paediatric Emergency Department

Poster presentation

South West Paediatric Club meeting, 6 Nov 2015, Bristol, UK

Quality Improvement in Endotracheal Intubation in a Paediatric Emergency Department: Checklist Development and Implementation Using Simulation and Action Cards

Poster presentation

RCPCH Annual Conference, 30 April 2015, Birmingham, UK

Non-invasive ventilation in older children, or ‘see one, do one, teach one’

Podium presentation, shared with Steve Jones, Consultant Paediatrician at the Royal United Hospital, Bath

South West Association of Intensive Therapy Meeting

30 October 2009