**Background:** Sexual health and relationship issues are not routinely addressed by healthcare professionals in acute children's care settings. Current literature focuses on primary care and school settings. With the increase in sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancy, are we missing a vital opportunity to talk to young people about sexual and relationship health (SRH) within an acute children’s hospital?

**Research Question:** To explore how sexual and relationship health is discussed with young people whilst in an acute children’s hospital.

**Questionnaires**
Were distributed to 100 young people (aged over 14 years old) and their parents in both inpatient and outpatient settings in one acute children’s hospital. n=63 (63%) were returned from young people, n=64 (64%) were returned from parents.

**Findings**
Young people wanted information from the hospital on sexually transmitted infections, contraception and condoms. They preferred the information to be provided either in a leaflet or by talking to health professionals and would feel most at ease if this came from a nurse on a one to one basis.

**Feedback from Young People’s Forum**
The young people from the forum helped clarify the findings and that young people did not want to be asked about SRH directly BUT wanted to know that there was the option and choice to discuss these with the HCP.

**Focus Groups**
6 focus groups were held (3-8 HCP in each. Total n=25)
Professionals involved doctors, nurses, nurse specialists and psychologists

**Findings**
The ability of HCP’s to initiate and discuss SRH with children and young people was found to be influenced by both personal and contextual factors.

**Contextual factors** included; the continuity of the relationship with the young person, the locations of the interaction, the focus of the discussion and being able to negotiate time and space. **Personal factors** included; personal characteristics and beliefs of health care professionals and previous experience and training.

Many professionals feel ill prepared to discuss sexual and relationship health with young people and identified that an e-learning resource would be an appropriate learning tool.

**Development of the E-Learning Resource**
Regional funding was granted to develop an e-learning resource containing both factual written information and videos with communication scenarios which was accessible through the hospital intranet through a link [http://www.ahchsexualhealth.co.uk/player.html](http://www.ahchsexualhealth.co.uk/player.html)

This resource was evaluated by 78 HCPs in an online survey. The resource was evaluated positively, with more staff reporting able to discuss SRH issues with young people after the training and stating their knowledge had increased and their learning had enhanced their practice. The videos were rated as a particular strength of the resource.

**Published Papers**