

# The Beam Campaign:

*Transforming IV access in children*







The Children's Surgery Foundation



Working in partnership with the  
British Association of Paediatric Surgeons

## The Beam Campaign: *Transforming IV access in children*

The Children's Surgery Foundation supports babies, children, and their families through the continuous improvement of paediatric surgery. Working in partnership with the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, we provide medical equipment, surgical training, and research to hospitals across the UK.

We are launching an ambitious new fundraising campaign to ensure that intravenous (IV) access is a more efficient and less intimidating procedure for young patients and their families. Every year, more than 250,000 children are treated on paediatric surgical wards across the UK. Almost all these young patients require intravenous access during their treatment.

Intravenous access is used for cannulas and blood tests. Intravenous lines are used to deliver anaesthetic medication for surgery and longer-term medications such as chemotherapy. In emergency settings, when a child is critically unwell, they enable life-saving fluid resuscitation and medication to be given. Babies, particularly those born early with complex conditions requiring a prolonged hospital admission, often have especially challenging venous access. Their care frequently requires repeated anaesthetics throughout their early life, and accessing their veins can become increasingly difficult. Some children are left with short bowel as a result of their surgical condition. For these children, the intravenous line through which they receive fluid and nutrition is quite literally their lifeline.

Although intravenous lines are an essential component of paediatric surgical care, their insertion can be uncomfortable and distressing for patients and their families. Due to the small size of children's veins, even the most experienced clinicians may require multiple attempts and considerable time to achieve venous access.





For babies and children whose life depends on their intravenous line, this can help to preserve their precious veins in the long-term.

### Ultrasound vein finders

The use of mobile ultrasound vein finders can considerably improve the experience of patients, families and hospital staff. Using non-invasive ultrasound imaging, they provide doctors and specialist nurses with a roadmap of a child's veins and facilitate accessing larger veins which may not otherwise be visible with the naked eye.

The ultrasound vein finders allow clinicians to identify the most appropriate blood vessel quickly and easily, which reduces pain, and the risk of damage to veins from repeated attempts. For babies and children whose life depends on their intravenous line, this can help to preserve their precious veins in the long-term.

By making the procedure faster and more effective, vein finders have the potential to save both time and resources on wards. As they are portable, they can be used flexibly by hospitals where the need is greatest.

## Matilda's story

Ultrasound vein finders will make a big difference to children like Matilda, a patient at Evelina London Children's Hospital. At ten months old, Matilda was diagnosed with a bowel condition called Total Colonic Hirschsprungs (TCH) that has resulted in over half her bowel not working as it should. The condition is caused when certain nerve cells are absent.

Following two operations, Matilda needed regular intravenous treatment at Evelina London. However, because she is so young, doctors and nurses found it difficult to find her veins and insert needles accurately from sight alone.

"At first, the doctors and nurses found it hard to find a vein on Matilda," recalls Matilda's mum, Meghan. "On one occasion, they tried to put in a cannula a number of times before finding a vein. This was stressful for both Matilda and for me as her mum."

But thanks to the purchase of an ultrasound scanner, intravenous procedures like taking blood and inserting tubes are straightforward, successful and a lot less scary for young children like Matilda.

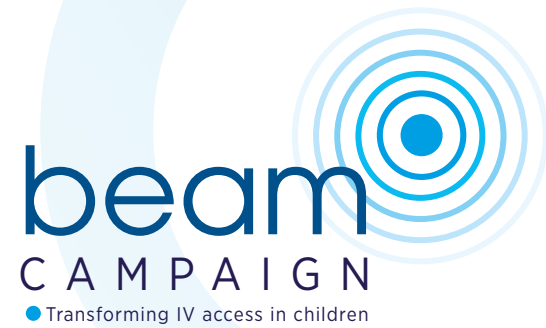
"It's reassuring for everyone when the equipment is used," says Meghan. "Seeing needles inserted into Matilda so often so often can be really stressful but with the help of the scanners the process is much faster and smoother."

With grateful thanks to Matilda, Meghan and Evelina London for sharing their story.

Seeing needles inserted into Matilda so often can be really stressful but with the help of the scanners the process is much faster and smoother.

Matilda's mum, Meghan





## The Beam Campaign

Despite their advantages and effectiveness, mobile ultrasound vein finders are not routinely available on paediatric surgical wards in the UK. To address this, we are launching a national fundraising campaign to purchase a mobile ultrasound vein finder for every paediatric surgical ward in the UK.

As part of our campaign, we will also fund a training programme, patient education programme and research programme to support the introduction of the new equipment.



### Clinical Training

A comprehensive training programme incorporating simulation sessions and teaching videos will be developed to teach best practice on a continuous basis. This will cover the techniques of vein finder use, and provide advice on supporting patients and their families.



### Support and Education

An education programme to improve patient, carer and public understanding of the procedure will also be created and delivered through a children's story and app. This will educate carers and young patients about what is involved during the procedure, and provide distraction therapy when it takes place.



### Research and Evaluation

Our national provision of mobile ultrasound vein finders will also provide a valuable opportunity to contribute to research in paediatric intravenous line insertion. To ensure continuous improvement, we will monitor the progress closely and assess the effectiveness and impact of the new vein finders, training and education programmes on clinicians, wards, patients and their families.

## The 26 paediatric surgical departments in the UK:







“An Ultrasound Vein Finder seems to me to be the most urgent and essential piece of equipment for babies and children requiring frequent blood tests and lines inserted into their veins. Please, please help us to raise funds and awareness. Thank you from the depths of our hearts.”

Lady Sophie Windsor,  
Royal Patron

## Why we need your support

Our aim is to provide all 26 paediatric surgical units in the UK with an ultrasound vein finder by the end of 2022. Each mobile ultrasound vein finder will cost up to £30,000, and a further £220,000 is needed to fund our national training, education and research programmes.

In total, we need to raise **£1 million** over two years. To achieve this ambitious goal, we are seeking the major support of our community of donors and friends. We have designed a model of giving to show how we can achieve this:

| Annual gift Amount | Gift amount over 2 years with Gift Aid | Number of Donors needed | Total raised      |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| £100,000           | £250,000                               | 1                       | £250,000          |
| £24,000            | £60,000                                | 4                       | £240,000          |
| £12,000            | £30,000                                | 12                      | £360,000          |
| £1,000             | £2,500                                 | 30                      | £75,000           |
| £500               | £1,250                                 | 55                      | £68,750           |
| £25                | £62.50                                 | 100                     | £6,250            |
| <b>202 donors</b>  |  |                         | <b>£1,000,000</b> |

## The Brueton Society

In recognition of the transformational nature of leadership giving, donors who make commitments of **£30,000** or more (including Gift Aid) will be awarded lifetime membership of the Children's Surgical Foundation Brueton Society.

Members will receive an annual invitation to a special reception hosted by the charity's trustees and patrons.



## How to support our Campaign

We would be immensely grateful for your personal involvement in our Campaign. There are a number of ways in which you could support us. You could:

- Make a personal gift or pledge
- Host a small Campaign event
- Share our plans with others who may be interested
- Introduce us to a prospective donor, foundation or corporate supporter

To discuss giving opportunities, please contact Helen Ison, Chief Executive Officer at [helen.ison@childrensurgeryfoundation.org](mailto:helen.ison@childrensurgeryfoundation.org)



*“I can't believe that in this day and age babies and children are suffering pain and distress unnecessarily. This simple piece of equipment should be available everywhere it is needed: I am supporting this important campaign and I do hope you will do so too.”*

*Jane Asher, Patron*





**The Children's Surgery Foundation**

[www.childrensurgeryfoundation.org](http://www.childrensurgeryfoundation.org)  
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