

SAPA NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2021

PICC PLACEMENT IN NEONATES

The recent *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) video tutorials on the placement of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICC) in neonatal patients is comprehensive and provides both video and written instruction related to the procedure. Furthermore, indications, contraindications, site selection, required equipment and considerations for parental consent prior to the procedure have been detailed. This tutorial is a valuable refresher for registrars and general paediatricians who consult on neonates in intensive care or high care units. Visit the [NEJM website](#) for subscribers (it can be accessed by logging in through your academic institution).

UPDATE ON MEASLES ELIMINATION

The World Health Organization [Progress toward Measles Elimination report](#) shows a resurgence of measles cases throughout the world, with the African region most affected. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the goal to eliminate measles globally. There has been a dramatic decline in the number of children who receive Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) vaccinations, and country/regional surveillance programmes have been interrupted. Immunity gaps lead to outbreaks in settings where large pockets of children were not vaccinated. South Africans experienced a measles outbreak in 2009; given what is known about vaccination rates presently it is possible that we will see a similar outbreak in the near future. For insights into the effect of measles infection on the immune system, take the time to [review this article](#) on the topic. And remember to check that every patient you see has had all their routine vaccinations! The National Department of Health's [Field Guide for the Catch Up of Child Health Interventions in South Africa](#) provides clear guidance to ensure that every child receives the medical care he or she needs when the usual schedule has been missed.

SAPA COVID-19 WEBINAR: 26 JANUARY 2022

COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to review how we teach, how we learn, what our priorities are and the path forward personally and professionally. This disease entity will continue to evolve, and it seems will remain with us for the foreseeable future. A report in this edition of *SAJCH* on the indirect effects of COVID-19 on children guides our thoughts beyond the clinical aspects of this disease and provides a starting point for various role players to assist our children to move beyond these challenges and thrive (see *Children caught in the long shadow of COVID-19*).

SAPA is committed to providing evidence-based guidance to both paediatricians and parents as various aspects of this pandemic brings new challenges to our daily lives. In January 2022 we will provide an update for clinicians on long-COVID and revisit the topic of COVID-19 vaccination in children. For reminders and a calendar link, [register here](#).

SAPA webinars are recorded and are freely available on the [SAPA YouTube channel](#), via live streaming and after the event has aired. SAPA members who attend the live session are eligible for CPD points. You can become a SAPA member with [just a click](#).

GET INVOLVED WITH SAPA!

Do you want to get involved in *Striving for Thriving Kids* with SAPA? We have many committees working on a variety of topics such as paediatric education, COVID-19 and social media among others. To become a part of the team, contact us at info@paediatrics.org.za. Let us know your area of interest or if you would prefer to be placed in a team – we would be glad to have you! This is an exciting way to engage with colleagues from across the country and contribute to child health outside of the usual day-to-day work in the wards. We look forward to welcoming you to the team.