Introduction
Paediatric Emergency Research in the UK and Ireland (PERUKI) is a research collaborative that was established in August 2012. It consists of 40 centres from England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and aims to improve the emergency care of children through the performance of robust collaborative multicentre research within Emergency Departments (EDs).

Aim
A study was conducted to establish the research priorities of PERUKI members.

Methods
A 2-stage modified Delphi survey was conducted of all PERUKI members via an online survey platform.

Round 1 consisted of a single question: “Thinking about your clinical practice in the field of paediatric emergency medicine (PEM), what are the most important research questions which need addressing?”. Each respondent could submit up to 12 individual questions in “PICO” (population, intervention, control, outcome) format that they identified as priorities for future research. From this total bank of responses, a list of all unique research questions was compiled, grouped by subject area/topic.

A shortlist of eligible questions was then drawn up by the PERUKI Executive Committee during a teleconference analysis discussion. Questions were considered to be eligible for further analysis if they were unanswered in the current literature and if they leant themselves to multi-centre research within the ED environment.

In Round 2, PERUKI members reviewed each of the shortlisted questions and rated each on a 7-point Likert scale of relative importance to their own clinical practice in PEM (1 = ‘not a priority’ to 7 = ‘essential priority’). Questions were then ranked according to total priority score.

Results
Round 1: Response rate = 46/91 (51%)

For the 60 research questions that were rated, the mean score of “relative degree of importance” was 4.70 (range 3.36 – 5.62).

Current PERUKI Research Priorities (top 20 highest ranking questions) – see Table 1

Conclusion
This is the first study to identify the research priorities of PEM clinicians in the UK & Ireland. The intention is that these results will be a catalyst for future projects and that research questions identified as PERUKI priorities will be looked on favourably when grant applications are made. The research priorities are at several different stages in the evidence process, with considerable variation in their background evidence, and are likely to require allocation to separate distinct funding programs. The results have already been shared with national funding bodies to guide the direction of future research in our specialty.

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