Spice (alternative names: Black Mamba, K2, Mad Hatter, Mr Happy, Insane Joker, Vertex, Fake Weed, Pandora, Clockwork Orange, Devil’s Weed) is a cannabis synthetic psychoactive drug. It is extremely addictive. Under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, the law states that it is legal to be in possession of and to smoke Spice personally but not to produce or sell it. If you discover children (under 18s) are using the drug:

- refer to drug and alcohol services
- advise them to look on http://www.talktofrank.com/
- refer to children’s social care
- advise parents to look at https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/drugs/Pages/Drugsandyourkids.aspx
- give general advice that each brand and packet is different,
- and effects can be lethal

Faltering growth: recognition and management of faltering growth in children, NICE [NG75] Sept 2017

Key messages:
- newborns normally lose up to 10% of their birthweight in the first 3-4 days of life and will be back up to their birthweight by 3 weeks of age.
- > 10% loss? Careful clinical examination, feeding support and following the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative management guidelines (available here) are the mainstay of treatment. In a well baby, there is not usually any need for blood tests until weight loss is nearer to 15%.
- Thresholds for concern beyond the neonatal period:
  - Birthweight < 2nd centile: Current weight < 2nd centile
  - Birthweight 9th – 91st centile: Fall across ≥ 2 centile spaces
  - Birthweight > 91st centile: Fall across ≥ 3 centile spaces
  - Any birthweight: Current weight < 2nd centile

- in older children consider UTI and/or coeliac disease
- measure weight, height (length if < 2yrs) and BMI
- plot on growth chart

NICE interactive flow chart available here.

RCPCH stroke guideline (2017) – diagnosis, management and rehabilitation.

- >400 UK children per year will have a stroke
- Full algorithm in poster form available here. Useful for ED departments as goes from recognition to investigations and treatment.
- Use the FAST (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) criteria for identification of stroke as in adults but don’t rule out stroke in the absence of these signs.
- Parent information is here.

The RCPCH stroke algorithm uses an American Pediatric NIH stroke scale (PedNIHSS) which most of us are not familiar with. Click here for a downloadable testing toolkit – 13 pages including the pictures and sentences used for the tests.