DAS Difficult Airway Alert Card and Database:
FAQs for doctors

How can my hospital join the project?

Information Governance (IG) approval is required from your hospital before you can join the DAS Airway Alert Card and Database Project. This can be obtained from either the IG department or Caldicot Guardian. The project involves data sharing outside your hospital, so this approval is crucial. The following documents outline how to obtain the necessary approval. If you require further information please contact dad@das.uk.com

Once we have the appropriate evidence of approval - this can be an e mail from the IG Department or the Caldicot Guardian- we will add your hospital to the database, and you can start submitting the data

How is 'Difficult Airway' defined for the purposes of this database?

We recognise that there are different definitions for difficult airway. We have not set any specific criteria with regards to what type or 'level of difficulty' for entry into the database. If you, as an experienced anaesthetist, feel that the information you provide will have a positive impact in the future management of your patient's airway, then you can enter your patient into the database.

Who can enter information in the database?

Any doctor adequately trained in airway management can create an entry in the database. We expect this is likely to be senior anaesthetist of at least four years of clinical experience in anaesthesia. If you are in the early part of your training, please discuss with your consultant before entering information.

Who can access information?

As clinical information held in the database would be useful not only in the perioperative setting but also during other medical emergencies, the access to the database would be open to all doctors in the UK. However, in view of patient confidentiality, you must register with the DAS website using your GMC number to access the database.

How do I access the database? Do I need to be a DAS member?

Any doctor in the UK can access the database to get clinical information about a patient. If you are a DAS member, you can use your DAS website username / password to gain access to the database. Others can get access by using the link below to register for free. https://das.uk.com/das_user/acaregister
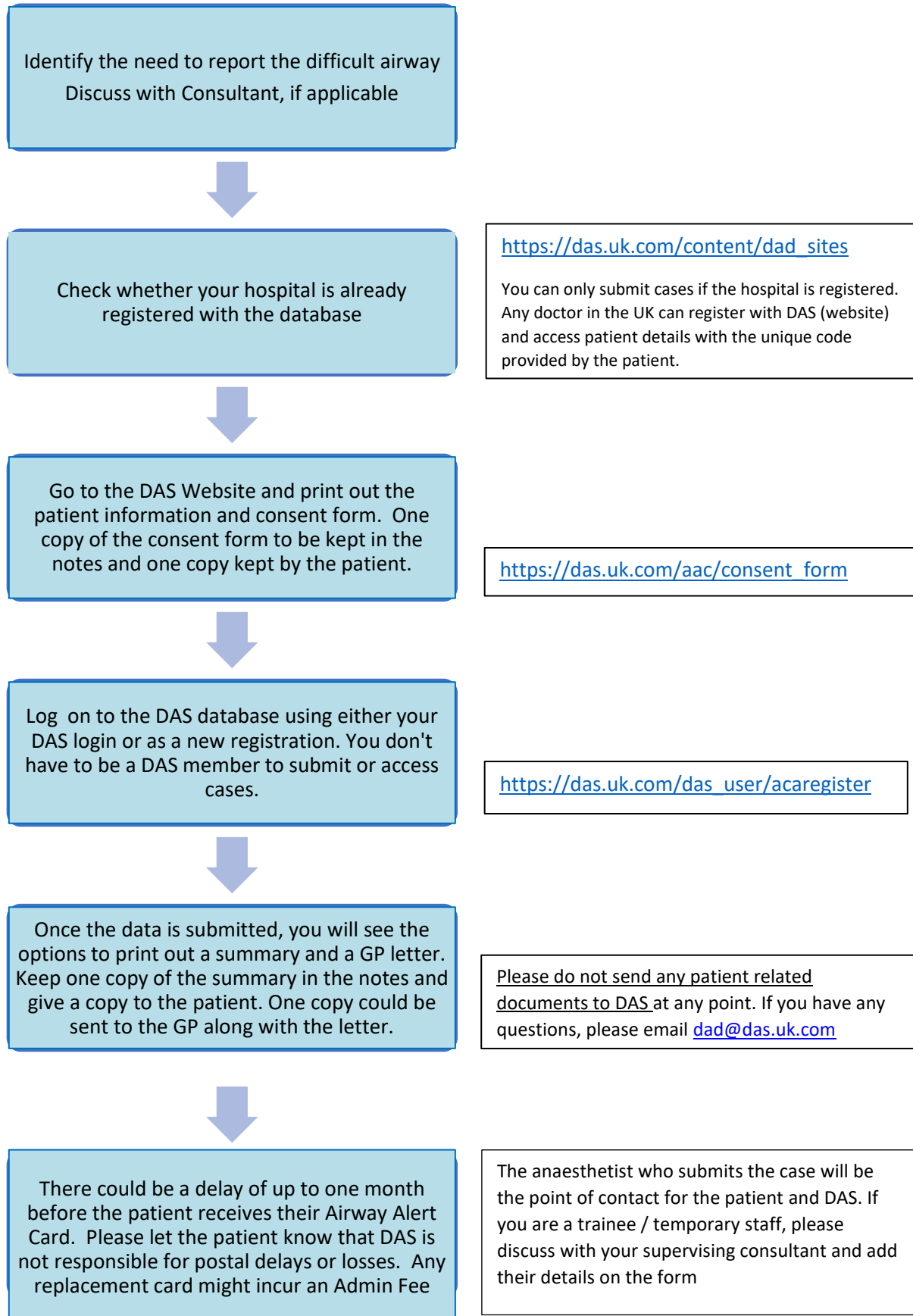
Please note that we require your GMC number and work email (nhs.net or trust supplied email) for registration.

Difficult Airway Society

What is the process to follow when I encounter a difficult airway?

This flowchart below will explain the sequence of events that should happen once you identify a patient with a difficult airway.

Identify the need to report the difficult airway
Discuss with Consultant, if applicable

Check whether your hospital is already registered with the database

https://das.uk.com/content/dad_sites

You can only submit cases if the hospital is registered. Any doctor in the UK can register with DAS (website) and access patient details with the unique code provided by the patient.

Go to the DAS Website and print out the patient information and consent form. One copy of the consent form to be kept in the notes and one copy kept by the patient.

https://das.uk.com/aac/consent_form

Log on to the DAS database using either your DAS login or as a new registration. You don't have to be a DAS member to submit or access cases.

https://das.uk.com/das_user/acaregister

Once the data is submitted, you will see the options to print out a summary and a GP letter. Keep one copy of the summary in the notes and give a copy to the patient. One copy could be sent to the GP along with the letter.

Please do not send any patient related documents to DAS at any point. If you have any questions, please email dad@das.uk.com

There could be a delay of up to one month before the patient receives their Airway Alert Card. Please let the patient know that DAS is not responsible for postal delays or losses. Any replacement card might incur an Admin Fee

The anaesthetist who submits the case will be the point of contact for the patient and DAS. If you are a trainee / temporary staff, please discuss with your supervising consultant and add their details on the form

Does registration grant me access to browse the entire database?

No. You can only view the details of the patient you are treating. When a patient presents the airway alert card, you have an implicit consent to view their information. In exceptional circumstances where the patient was given a card but has lost it, you can use the NHS number to get clinical information. This access is strictly monitored.

Can we get a generic login for our hospital?

No. As per GDPR guidance, we must regularly audit the access to the database, and this will be impossible with a generic login process. Also, it is very unlikely that an Information Governance department will agree with such a provision, due to the potential threat of a data breech.