

The Pennine Acute Hospitals

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Date: 18th May 2014

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Strictly Private and Confidential

Ms L J Hashmi
Area Coroner Manchester North

Dear Ms Hashmi

Re: Inquest for Baby Thomas Beaty – 24th – 27th March 2015

I am responding to the concerns you raised in the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued on 31st March 2015, in relation to Baby Thomas Beaty. In light of the findings from the inquest and the investigation the Trust has taken the following actions described below.

Instrumental Delivery Guidance

Since the sad death of Thomas Beaty, the Trust reviewed and revised the Guideline for Assisted Vaginal Delivery in order to provide staff with greater clarity and guidance regarding the requirement for Consultant presence for trial in theatre if the operator is less than ST6. Additional guidance was also added with regards to the flexion point, complications of instrumental deliveries, and disimpaction of the head. This guideline was ratified in December 2014.

Immediately following the inquest a directive was issued to the obstetric medical team highlighting the requirement for a Consultant Obstetrician to be present in theatre for all trials of instrumental deliveries regardless of the level of experience of the Middle Grade operator. The guideline was amended to reflect this requirement and an audit undertaken on both inpatient sites in April to provide assurance that this requirement was being met consistently.

Upon receipt of the concerns you raised in the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths the guideline has been reviewed and revised further in order to address the areas that were considered ambiguous, misleading and potentially open to misinterpretation.

1. Instrumental Delivery Guidance

Guideline amended to state to abandon the procedure

- When there is no descent even after the 1st pull.

2. Terminology

An explanation of the terms imminent and crowning has been added to the guideline. It is now stated in Section 6.2.6:

- If delivery is imminent as evidenced by crowning (when the widest part of the baby's head (bi-parietal diameter) is at the perineum and does not slip back in between contractions)

3. Traction

The guidance around traction was taken from the ASLO (Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics) course manual and has been amended and the term 'gentle' removed. The 'G' of the algorithm now reads:

G: Moderate traction, by pulling downwards, sweeping in a large arc towards the operator, almost completing a 180 degree curve (Pajot's manoeuvre).

4. Development of Trust Guidance

We have made interim changes to the Trust guideline whilst waiting for the RCOG to respond to the recommendations. However we will review again once the RCOG recommendations have been received.

The amended guideline has been circulated to the obstetric medical team for their comments. The final document will be ratified in June 2015 and a copy will be sent to you following this. I am also including the Guideline for Assisted Vaginal Delivery for your information.

I would wish to offer sincere condolences on behalf of myself and the maternity team to Thomas' parents and family.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Acting Medical Director

