

8th June 2016

Mr D Hinchliff
Senior Coroner
West Yorkshire (Eastern)
Coroner's Office and Court
71 Northgate
Wakefield
WF1 3BS

Dear Mr Hinchliff

Re: Inquest Touching the Death of Angus Jonathan Labofski West (Deceased)

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the findings in this inquest and the *Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths* which you have issued as a consequence of these findings.

As indicated in my acknowledgement of this notification, I have shared this with the Clinical Director for Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Risk Management team. The Trust have liaised with The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and neighbouring Trusts (principally Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust) seeking advice on this matter.

I am also grateful for the copy of the response from the Royal College of Midwives which you have forwarded.

As a consequence of the tragic outcome in this case and the inquest findings we undertake to institute the following standard operating procedure in respect to retention of placenta following childbirth. Points a) and b) are current standard practice and the remaining points are to be instituted by September 1st 2016.

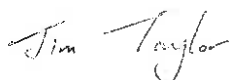
- a) The placenta and all its appendices are routinely inspected at all deliveries.
- b) All placentas from stillborn infants or intra partum deaths are sent for detailed histopathology examination at our neighbouring trust (The Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust), with necessary consent from the parents.
- c) All placentas and their appendices from all live births are bagged, labelled and dated and kept refrigerated on labour ward for a period of 24 hours.

- If the baby is born in good condition and remains well and there are no further concerns, the placenta will be disposed of, with the appropriate permission from the mother, after 24hrs.
- If the baby is born in poor condition, or extremely preterm, or deteriorates soon after birth (within 24 hours) then we intend that the placenta will be retained for further storage and will be sent to the histopathology department locally at York for a period of 30 days. If during this time the baby goes on to die, at that point the (stored) placenta with its appendices will be sent for formal histopathology examination at Leeds. This will either be along with the infant post-mortem request or separate from this, depending on the necessary consent from the parents.

I hope that this undertaking alleviates the concerns raised during the recent inquest and reassures you that all reasonable steps have been taken to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. I would be happy to write to you again after the proposed implementation date to confirm that the Trust has complied with these undertakings.

Should you require any further information do not hesitate to contact myself or [REDACTED] Deputy Medical Director.

Yours sincerely



[REDACTED]
Medical Director & Responsible Officer

Copy to

[REDACTED] Deputy Medical Director, York Teaching Hospital
[REDACTED] Clinical Director, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, York Teaching Hospital
[REDACTED], Lead Clinician for Histopathology, York Teaching Hospital
[REDACTED] Chief Medical Officer, The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust