

20 April 2020

Coroner ME Hassell
Senior Coroner
Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
London N1C 4PP

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Hassell

Re: Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths report - Rifky Grossberger (died 05.08.19)

This letter is in response to your request to Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths report that was received by the Royal College of Nursing on March 16th 2020. I am sorry to hear about the tragic circumstances relating to the death of Rifky Grossberger.

Your report states that '... the midwives and district nurses who look after new mums and their babies are well placed to offer advice, but may need a reminder to warn of this particular danger.' In preparing this response, we have consulted with our members that span our range of Children and Young People Forums, and our Professional Leads for Public Health, Midwifery, Children & Young People and Primary Care.

Midwives and Health Visitors routinely provide new parents with written information about a range of issues, including safety in the home. Discussions around safety is an integral part of the national Healthy Child Programme of contacts with the family, that is undertaken by the Health Visitor throughout the child's early years.

The Healthy Child Programme for the early life stages focuses on a universal preventative service, providing families with a programme of screening, immunisation, health and development reviews, supplemented by advice around health, wellbeing and parenting. The safety aspects of discussions with parents includes the potential risk of strangulation and suffocation, with Health Visitors highlighting and providing resources from the Child Accident Prevention Trustⁱ and NHS online advice for new parentsⁱⁱ.

In considering your report, we have reviewed and strengthened our guidance about the potential risks of strangulation and suffocation on our clinical webpages for Health Visitors, Midwives, School Nurses, Children's Nurses, Neonatal Nurses and General Practice Nurses. Further to this, we have also brought this matter to the attention of our members through Forums and their social media platforms.

I trust that our response gives some assurance that safety advice is an integral part of the Healthy Child Programme, and highlights the steps that the Royal College of Nursing has taken to bring this issue to the attention of our members who provide care to babies, children and their families.

Yours sincerely



Dame Donna Kinnair
Chief Executive & General Secretary

ⁱ <https://www.capt.org.uk/strangulation>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/baby-safety-tips/>