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Thursday, 25 February 2021

  
Dear Coroner Z Golombeck,

**Re: Master Michael Chahwanda  
Regulation 28 – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

I have read carefully your report regarding the tragic and untimely death of Michael Chahwanda and have discussed this with senior colleagues within the RCPCH in order to respond to your request.

You have asked us to consider an amendment to the Red Book to include specific advice for Vitamin D supplementation in the postnatal period to be given by the attending Health Visitor.

Attached to this letter is the most recent PDF version of the Red Book, version 4.6 most recently updated in August 2020. Please refer to page 6 of this document on Vitamin D that recommends that all pregnant women, babies and young children from birth to 5 years should have a daily supplement containing vitamin D. It states that breastfed babies need vitamin drops from birth alongside breast milk. This is ratified in the College's own guidance on vitamin D for children.<sup>1</sup>

NHS Choices states that all pregnant and breastfeeding women need 10 micrograms of vitamin D each day and should consider increasing this dose in the winter months.<sup>2</sup>

It is likely that the sad circumstances surrounding this child's death is a professional practice issue, rather than an omission in College standards or guidelines. E-learning is available for child health professionals, including health visitors and midwives that signposts to the information hosted on the NHS Choices website for guidance around vitamin D supplements.<sup>3</sup> These materials are endorsed and hosted by Health Education England.

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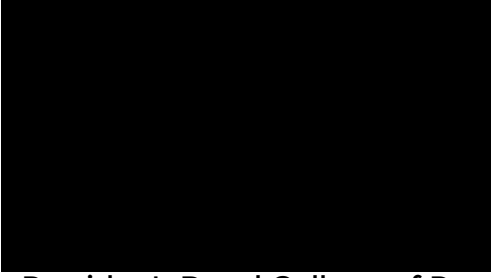
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/vitamin-d-infants-children-young-people-guidance>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/keeping-well/vitamins-supplements-and-nutrition/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/healthy-pregnancy-pathway/antenatal/universal.html>

Thank you for raising this important case with us.

Yours sincerely



President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health