



HEALTHCARE SAFETY
INVESTIGATION BRANCH

24th March 2020

HEALTHCARE SAFETY INVESTIGATION BRANCH

Sent by email

HSIB, A1
Cody Technology Park
Farnborough
Hampshire
GU14 0LX

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

Changes to the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) maternity programme

The HSIB are reviewing our processes and approach to investigation to ensure we minimise the impact our work has on your Trust at this time. We are aware that there is a significant level of NHS reconfiguration during the current crisis and we want to ensure the work we do with Trusts and families is supportive of this approach.

Therefore, with immediate effect we will no longer routinely investigate maternity events involving cooled babies where there is no apparent neurological injury confirmed following therapy. This would normally mean an MRI showing no hypoxic or neurological damage and the baby demonstrating no ongoing neurological signs or symptoms.

We still ask that all events meeting the criteria in the HSIB Directions 2018 are referred to HSIB and we may choose to investigate any of these after assessing individual circumstances, including specific concerns from the Trust and affected families. The importance of maintaining reporting of incidents during this time is that it will allow us to maintain surveillance of the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has on maternity services.

If no concerns are raised, we will log the event and not progress an investigation further. We anticipate these investigations would not meet the Trusts criteria or SI framework for investigation and therefore would not require the Trust to undertake further action. If the Trust felt an investigation was required or were undertaking an internal review following a complaint, HSIB would review the case and support where possible.

The investigations we do progress will be undertaken to the best of our ability and in collaboration with the Trust. As a reminder, to progress an investigation, HSIB require consent from families and a

scanned copy of the case records from the Trust. We are aware we may need to place some investigations on hold where the Trust does not have the capacity to support the sharing of medical records and additional information we request.

If an investigation does progress, we will only request information from key staff members and will undertake an approach with the individual staff member's agreement which minimises distraction from clinical duties. As you are already aware, this will be completed remotely.

Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time. We are constantly balancing the value we can add through these investigations against available resource both within your Trust and the HSIB. I may need to make further changes as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Conradi
Chief Investigator



Sandy Lewis
Maternity Programme Director



James Walker
Clinical Director of
Maternity investigation