

08 May 2025

Ms Sophie Hills  
HM Area Coroner  
Coroners Office  
Lewes Road  
Brighton  
BN2 3QB

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Our reference: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Hills

**Re: Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths Report (Alonzo Christopher Andrew Wood)**

I write in response to your regulation 28 report dated 19 March 2025 regarding the very sad death of Alonzo Christopher Andrew Wood. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Alonzo's family.

Our patient safety leads at NICE have discussed the contents of your report and the summary information given relating to the baby death of Alonzo, while considering the relevant published NICE guidance on this topic, in this case [Fetal monitoring in labour \(NG229\)](#).

NG229 deals with fetal monitoring *in labour* and has clear guidance on the interpretation and classification of the cardiotocograph (CTG) in this clinical situation. The emphasis in the guideline is on taking the whole clinical picture into account when making decisions on how to manage the labour, including maternal observations, contraction frequency and labour progress.

When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Responsibility for decisions on the most appropriate treatment stays with individual clinicians. NICE guidelines are a practical tool to be used in conjunction with and not as a substitute for clinical judgement.

We will consider reviewing the evidence on antenatal CTG interpretation and actions to be taken as a result however, there is unlikely to be sufficient evidence of the required quality for NICE to produce a guideline in this area. Our patient safety leads will also work with others to see if they can produce a practice guide to inform practitioners.

I hope my response is helpful and would like to reiterate my sincere condolences to Alonzo's family.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Chief Executive.A small black rectangular box redacting the name of the Chief Executive.

Chief Executive