

Coroner O Longstaff
Area Coroner
Wakefield

Sent by email to: [REDACTED]

28 August 2025

Dear Mr. Longstaff,

**Re: RCPCH Response to the Inquest Touching the Death of Benjamin Finch Arnold
A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

Thank you for sharing your report with us regarding the tragic and untimely passing of Benjamin Finch Arnold. I was very sorry to hear of Benjamin's death.

Along with colleagues in the college I have considered your report carefully and note that you have asked RCPCH to two specific points, which I address in turn below.

(3) The evidence disclosed concerns that guidelines for the performing of a LISA procedure are not standardised across the NHS, particularly with reference to the performing of a chest x-ray to exclude pneumothorax before commencing the procedure, and to the necessity of seeking consultant approval before undertaking the procedure.

RCPCH does not produced standardised guidance for Less Invasive Surfactant Administration (LISA) procedures. We note that NICE Quality Standard QS193 recommends the use of LISA and that NHS England are responsible for commissioning services which support this technique. RCPCH would suggest that the views of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM), who are the experts in care for this cohort of children, are considered and shared with NHS England regarding standardised guidelines.

(4) The evidence disclosed concerns whether national guidelines on the reversible causes of cardiac arrest ("the 4 H's and 4 T's") were sufficient for the purposes of identifying and treating the potential causes of cardiac arrest in a newborn baby.

The 4 H's and 4 T's guidelines are owned by the Resuscitation Council UK (RCUK), and RCPCH expects members to follow this guidance. Given the specificity of the concern with regard to use of these guidelines in neonatology, RCPCH would defer to BAPM and RCUK to pool their expertise on this matter in order to determine whether any changes are required.

Thank you for seeking our views. We will discuss this with BAPM in order to ensure that the RCPCH can lend our support to any further action. Our sincere condolences are with Benjamin's family.

Yours sincerely



RCPCH President