

[REDACTED] – Director, Y&H Neonatal ODN
[REDACTED], Clinical Lead, Y&H Neonatal ODN
c/o Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
email: J [REDACTED]

For the Attention of

Oliver Longstaff
Area Coroner
West Yorkshire (E)
His Majesty's Coroner's Office
The Coroner's Court
Burgage Square
Wakefield WF1 2TS

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

22 July 2025

Dear Mr Longstaff

Re: Regulation 28 report regarding Benjamin Finch Arnold

We write in response to your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 3 June 2025. Under Paragraph 7, Schedule 5 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013 you requested the Yorkshire & Humber Neonatal Operational Delivery Network (Y&H Neonatal ODN) hosted by Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, to consider matters for concern and take action to prevent future deaths.

Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS FT and the Y&H Neonatal ODN would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Benjamin.

Regarding the matters of concern the Y&H Neonatal ODN respond as follows:

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.

The ODN has no remit to provide national guidelines, however, has in place a regional guideline, which is available to all the neonatal units in our region, which relates to "*Surfactant Administration for Respiratory Distress Syndrome*". This was written during 2022 and ratified in September of that year.

This guideline has been reviewed, and the Y&H Neonatal ODN feel assured that it provides guidance in relation to the concerns raised in the Regulation 28 report regarding the performing of a chest Xray to exclude pneumothorax and seeking consultant approval before undertaking the procedure.

(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 national resuscitation guidelines are written by the Resuscitation Council UK who review guidelines published by the European Resuscitation Council which have been produced from a

consensus document with treatment recommendations by ILCOR (International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation).

All paediatric resident doctors in training who attend newborn deliveries should hold the Resuscitation Council UK courses on NLS (Newborn life support). All resident doctors in training require paediatric life support training but the course they attend will vary on level of training in speciality. All must have PLS (Paediatric Life Support Training) and either EPALS (European Paediatric Advanced Life Support) or APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) qualification as specified by the RCPCH.

While the NLS “newborn life support” training course does not specifically mention the 4Hs and 4Ts, it does list considerations if the baby does not respond to initial resuscitation (page 89). The APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) training does list the 4Hs and 4Ts as does the ARNI training (Advanced Resuscitation of the Newborn Infant), however the latter training is not mandatory for neonatal staff.

In addition to the guidelines discussed above the Y&H Neonatal ODN organise and provide free education sessions to supplement mandatory training and support neonatal continuing professional development for all staff working on neonatal units across our network. These include critical skills for consultants/permanent staff members within the neonatal units, and other face to face education days that cover key skills. Within these education sessions the network provides education and training in the use of the “DOPE” mnemonic for a baby who deteriorates on a ventilator/CPAP. This refers to considering Dislodgement of endotracheal tube, Obstruction of endotracheal tube, Pneumothorax, Equipment failure.

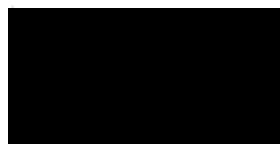
Following the receipt of the regulation 28 report the Y&H Neonatal ODN has written out to all of the neonatal units within our network to draw attention to the ODN *Surfactant Administration for Respiratory Distress Syndrome* guideline and reshare details regarding education sessions. We have also written out to the other Neonatal ODN’s within England to appraise them of the Coroners concerns and shared the Y&H Neonatal ODN guideline for their information.

We trust that this provides adequate assurance that the Y&H Neonatal ODN have noted the concerns and ensured that these are covered in relevant local guidelines and training. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if anything further is required.

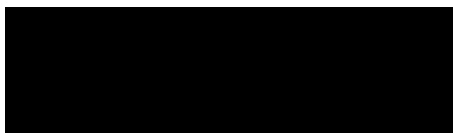
Kind Regards



Clinical Lead, Y&H Neonatal ODN



Director, Y&H Neonatal ODN



Chief Executive, Sheffield Children's NHS FT
cc. Y&H Specialised Commissioning Team