

Summary of Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future death: Harry Richford (died 9/11/17)

This is a brief summary of the regulation 28 coroners report into the death of *Harry Richford* from which you can review the coroner recommendations to paediatric health care and consider whether there are changes you could implement in your local NHS trust to address them

Clinical summary

Cause of Death: Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy

Events leading to HIE:

- Pathological CTG secondary to excessive use of syntocinon. Delay of 2hrs before delivery.
- Delivery was initially trialed with forceps which did not lock. However, this was sub-standard mode due to risk of trauma.
- Harry was born by C-section. Delay in securing of airway (intubated at 28 min) led to prolonged period of post-natal hypoxia
- Transferred to tertiary neonatal unit where he died on day 7.

Coroner's Recommendations

- Review the recruitment process for locum doctors & the process of determining the permitted scope of activities before being given clinical responsibility
- Ensure staff understand when consultant attendance is required or how to escalate difficult airways
- Organize regular neonatal resuscitation simulations and experience in tertiary neonatal units.
- Ensure that the placenta is sent for histology in cases of fetal distress.
- Improve record keeping, documentation and ensure staff should make statements as soon as possible after the event.

Key Themes

- Inadequate workforce & supervision
- Failures in situational awareness, recognition of need for help & communication among teams
- Need for robust guidelines including managing difficult airways
- Unclear documentation.

Local Improvement suggestions from this report

- Evaluate & improve the psychological safety of your team including locums
- Review & share guidelines related to expedited delivery & difficult neonatal airway and run simulations with human factors focus
- Audit the quality of the documentation & institute improvement.

For full information visit
<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Harry-Richford-2020-0117-1.pdf>
or follow the QR code

