

Neonatal Mortality Governance Framework Working Group - Terms of Reference

Purpose

This document outlines the terms of reference for a BAPM working group to develop a Framework for Practice on Neonatal Mortality Governance.

Background

BAPM has reviewed the current guidance around death reviews and discussed processes, variations in practice and concerns with key individuals involved in death review and medical examiner processes in the UK. Mortality governance has also been discussed as part of the National policy subgroup in response to national events and reports.

The main aims of this document will be to provide a neonatal resource for:

- Death governance processes for expected and unexpected death including the role of the medical examiner, coronial processes, and independent review.
- Support for families after death including during a Coroner's investigation or MNSI.
- Mortality review processes including PMRT, CDOP, MNSI and relationships between hospitals, neonatal ODNs, LMNSs, ICSs, regional maternity services and regional commissioning.
- Mortality review data reporting and dissemination of learning from mortality reviews.

This document will not cover deaths outside of maternity and neonatal services. Investigations for sudden unexpected death are included in other national documents and would not be revisited in this document. Palliative care is considered in a separate framework for practice.

Group Outputs

- A Framework for Practice

Group Members:

Chair: Eleri Adams

- 1 NICU Consultant
- 1 LNU/SCU Consultant
- Trainees
- 1 ANNP
- 1 Nurse
- 1 Midwife
- 1 Psychologist
- 1 Network Governance lead
- 2 Parents
- 1 CDOP representative (experience on the CDOP)

Stakeholder Groups Representation

- Medical Examiners for all 4 nations – TBC
- NHS England – TBC
- Coronial Office / Coroners' Society – TBC
- Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK (MBRRACE-UK) – TBC
- National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP) – TBC

- National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) – TBC
- British Maternal & Fetal Medicine Society (BMFMS) – TBC
- Maternity and Newborn Safety Investigations (MNSI) – TBC

Meetings

It is envisaged that this work will take approximately 8 months and involve 6 virtual meetings. Following completion of a draft Framework for Practice agreed by the working group, there will be a period of consultation with BAPM membership and relevant stakeholders before the final document is published on the BAPM website. It is expected that the Chair of the working group and/or other members will participate in an educational webinar to publicise the final Framework for Practice.

Expected Timetable

Please note that BAPM working groups are run and managed by volunteers so dates may be changed if work or personal circumstances make this unavoidable.

Milestones	Date (all 2024)
Meeting 1 - Intros and scope (60 mins)	2 July
Meeting 2 - contents and responsibilities (90 mins)	25 July
Meeting 3 - Check in, trouble shooting (60-90 mins)	TBC
Meeting 4 - Review of first draft (60-90 mins)	TBC
Meeting 5 - Review of second draft (60-90 mins)	TBC
Meeting 6 - post consultation (60-90 mins)	TBC
Publication and webinar	TBC

Responsibility and Accountability

The group is responsible to the BAPM Executive Committee and accountable to the BAPM membership.