

## **BAPM Framework Review Terms of Reference: Therapeutic Hypothermia for Neonatal Encephalopathy**

### **Purpose**

This document outlines the terms of reference for a BAPM working group to review and update the BAPM Framework for Practice ‘**Therapeutic Hypothermia for Neonatal Encephalopathy**’.

### **Background**

BAPM is convening a preliminary multidisciplinary working group to review and update the current BAPM framework on therapeutic hypothermia, originally published in 2020.

Since publication of the framework, there have been developments in evidence, clinical practice, and national and international guidance relating to neonatal encephalopathy and therapeutic hypothermia. In particular, there is increasing interest and ongoing uncertainty regarding the management of infants with mild HIE, including eligibility for cooling, interpretation of outcomes data, and variation in practice across centres. There have also been developments in approaches to neuroimaging, including timing and reporting of MRI and other investigations.

The review will consider the wider therapeutic hypothermia pathway while specifically exploring areas where evidence, guidance, or practice variation have evolved since publication of the original framework. The preliminary working group will refine and confirm the detailed scope, priorities, stakeholder representation, and areas of focus for the review.

### **Project Objectives or Roles and responsibilities**

- To produce a statement from BAPM confirming precise, diagnosis based definitions of HIE1, HIE2, and HIE3 to enable ongoing measurement, which can be used nationally for routine data collection and comparison.
- Review the current BAPM therapeutic hypothermia framework and identify areas requiring update in light of developments in evidence, clinical practice, and national and international guidance
- Undertake review of relevant literature and expert consensus to inform evidence-based recommendations for UK NHS practice, including areas of uncertainty such as management of mild HIE and use of therapeutic hypothermia in this group
- Work with relevant stakeholder groups to develop consistent definitions for HIE and approaches to data collection, benchmarking, surveillance, and audit activity to support future national alignment and evaluation

**Chair(s):** TBC – applications open soon

### **Working Group Members:**

Open applications from BAPM Membership:

- 1 x Consultant Neonatologist that works in a NICU
- 1 x Consultant Neonatologist that works in an LNU/SCU

- 1-2 x Neonatal nurse / ANNP
- 1 x Developmental Physiotherapist
- 1 x Psychological Professional

Professional bodies and charities that will be asked to send a representative:

- 1 x Representative for Peeps HIE charity
- 1 x Representative for BANNFU
- 1 x Representative for Newborn Brain Care Group
- 1 x Representative for NTG

### **AHPPP panel Members**

AHPPP panel members will not attend working group meetings but will feed into the work through the AHPPP rep(s) on the main working group. 1 representative is needed from each of the following groups that is not included on the main working group. These will be recruited through the appropriate specialty body.

- 1 x Rep for SLT Neonatal CEN
- 1 x Rep for NDIG
- 1 x Rep of RCOT
- 1 x Rep for APCP (if needed – see working group list above)
- 1 x Rep for NeoLEAP (if needed – see working group list above)
- 1 x Rep for NPPG

### **Service User Representatives**

Service user representatives will be appointed once the initial working group has drawn up the draft scope for this work.

### **Meetings**

It is envisaged that this work will take approximately 12 months and involve around 6-8 virtual meetings.

### **Responsibility and Accountability**

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

This is a terms of reference to allow us to start building an expert working group who will then draw up a full scope for this work. If you have any comments or questions or would like to recommend any other roles or individuals should be included please contact [bapm@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:bapm@rcpch.ac.uk) as soon as possible.