

## **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 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 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

### **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

**Please note the group will also include at least one AHPPP rep and input from parents / carers. (See below)**

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**

An AHPPP panel will be formed with the representatives listed below. All members of this panel must hold BAPM membership.

- 1 x Rep for speech and language therapists (recruited via SLT Neonatal CEN)
- 1 x Rep for Dieticians (recruited via NDIG)
- 1 x Rep of Occupational Therapists (recruited via RCOT)
- 1 x Rep for Physiotherapists (recruited via APCP)
- 1 x Rep for Psychological professionals (recruited via NeoLEAP and other relevant contacts)
- 1 x Rep for Pharmacists (recruited via NPPG)

BAPM will connect the members of this panel to coordinate the AHPPP input into this framework. The group will:

- Decide which representatives should sit on the main working group (dependent on the topic)
- Agree a chair (and vice chair if needed) to coordinate the panel.
- Keep each other informed about the progress of the working group
- Share relevant documents (framework scope, drafts of the framework etc.)
- Ensure input from members not sitting on the main working group
- Liaise with their relevant professional bodies and colleagues to ensure they are representing the views of their specialism, not just their own views.

This panel will be formed for the purposes of working on this framework only.

### **Parent / carer Representatives**

Parent / carer 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.