

March

MORTALITY learning bulletin

Parental Communication

- When babies die on labour ward, the communication with parents needs to be documented in both the maternal notes and the Badger summary.
- Language barriers create very difficult situations when dealing with death, especially out of hours. Whilst not ideal, language line using 3-way phones or speaker phones can be helpful to the parents. Ideally, face-to-face interpreters are gold standard where possible in this situation.

Antenatal Counselling

- Antenatal counselling is often scheduled for around 32 weeks but babies can then be born earlier with no planning. Liaison with fetal medicine teams locally to bring this forward may be beneficial.
- Consideration of use of Teams to ensure MDT discussions may also be of benefit.

Local Withdrawal

- Parental wishes and concerns should be listened to carefully before transport of an extreme preterm born outside a NICU.
- Local senior teams should support transport teams in decision making and management of local withdrawal.

Thermal Control

- Hypothermia in extreme preterms correlates with poorer outcomes and local audit/QI should be undertaken to improve thermal control.