

Human tissue guidance

The Human Tissue Authority has issued a new code of practice on the removal, storage and disposal of human organs and tissue, including guidance on the disposal of existing holdings. Trusts wishing to consider the disposal of such holdings can now do so, using the code as the basis for local decisions about timing and method.

The advice also includes information for developing policies on the disposal of fetal tissue resulting from a number of different pregnancy losses before 24 weeks'

gestation, including ectopic pregnancies, miscarriages, early intrauterine fetal deaths and termination for abnormality or for social reasons. It should not be used to give information to patients. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to build professional networks to help support the development and modification of their NHS trust policy.

The code of practice can be found at www.hta.gov.uk/guidance/codes_of_practice.cfm

www.dh.gov.uk/cnbulletin



Time critical transfers in the south west are aided by new air transportable incubator

The Peninsula Neonatal Transport Service was formed following the centralisation of services to provide care for the smallest and sickest babies at the Level 3 Unit in Plymouth. The transport team, based in the neonatal unit at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, Devon, provides a daytime service for babies who need to be transferred between hospitals within the peninsula or to other centres out of the region for more specialist care.

A major development for the service was the delivery of a new transport incubator in June 2006. Since the inception of service, the team have used the road-based version of the Ti 500 transport incubator. With donations towards the purchase from the Devon Air Ambulance Trust, Gawthorn Cardiac Trust and Lexus UK, an air-certified transport incubator is now available for use when a transfer is time critical. Designed for the EC135 helicopter, which the Devon Air Ambulance flies, this is the first air transportable incubator to be available in the south west.

For the future it is anticipated the service will provide full time cover for all moves (24 hours, 7 days/week) with unplanned emergency and planned non-urgent moves and repatriations being equally well supported.

Goats' milk to be phased out of infant formula

From 1 March 2007, infant milks based on goats' milk protein will not be sold in the UK. Parents need to be informed that these milks are not nutritionally suitable for infants under one year and provide advice about appropriate alternatives. An assessment carried out by the European Food Safety Authority found insufficient data to establish the suitability of goats' milk as a protein source in infant and follow-on formula.

www.dh.gov.uk/cnbulletin



A relaxing haven for GOSH visitors

Television presenter Tess Daly unveiled a new play area at Great Ormond Street Hospital's £30m refurbishment of its orthopaedic wing.

Young patients, siblings and their parents can enjoy a relaxing haven away from the hustle and bustle of the hospital in the Comfort Zone – a light and airy

sanctuary decorated with soft furnishing and toys. The play area opened thanks to more than £75,000 raised by Comfort Pure fabric conditioner. It is part of a redevelopment programme which will see around two-thirds of the hospital's existing site rebuilt or refurbished over the next 10 years.

Nominations requested for prestigious service award

The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) is currently seeking nominations for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Award for Outstanding Service 2007. The prestigious award will be presented in London in June 2007 to nurses and midwives who have given exceptional service to patients in community healthcare.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, 5 February 2007. Nominations must be made through an employing organisation such as an NHS trust, GP or other employer, without the knowledge of the nominee.

www.qni.org.uk/Awards.htm

NICE guidelines to give babies the best start possible

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published best practice guidelines on normal postnatal care. The guidelines set out the core care that should be available to women and babies who have uncomplicated care needs from the period immediately after birth to eight weeks.

It is advised that each woman should have her own personalised care plan and that all maternity care providers should implement an externally evaluated programme that encourages breastfeeding, using the Baby Friendly Initiative (www.babyfriendly.org.uk).

Specifically, women should be given the following information:

- How to breastfeed successfully and the signs that indicate a baby is getting sufficient milk.
- How to deal with common problems such as jaundice, excessive crying, colic and nappy rash.
- That sleeping with a baby, in a bed or a chair is not recommended.
- Support networks in their area.
- How to prepare, store and warm formula, if choosing to bottle feed.

NICE have produced a quick reference guide for healthcare professionals presenting the guideline in a straight-forward format with a section detailing the signs and symptoms of potentially serious and life threatening conditions for both the mother and her baby.

www.nice.org.uk



Claire Callaway with baby Hope and midwife Lorna Bird.

Midwife of the year Lorna delivers Hope

Nine nominated midwives from different regions attended the Mamas & Papas Midwife of the Year Awards in September to be commended for their professional achievements.

The final award for Midwife of the Year 2006 went to hospital midwife Lorna Bird from the Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton.

Lorna was nominated by Claire Callaway for her support during the delivery of Claire's daughter, Hope. Claire had contracted the Salmonella virus at 41 weeks. Despite a dangerous temperature of 40° and no confirmed diagnosis, Lorna helped Claire through 92 hours of monitoring, until the safe delivery of Hope.

Alaris SE alert

A medical device alert has been released for a volumetric infusion pump – the Alaris SE (formerly Signature Edition Infusion pump), manufactured by Cardinal Health (formerly Alaris). Unintended double key entries cause a number entered on the keypad to register twice although the operator only pressed the key once.

Cardinal Health is evaluating an improvement to minimise the potential for key bounce to occur which will be made available to customers. Cardinal has distributed labels for the pumps advising users to check all programming parameters before infusion therapy is started.

Cardinal Health, Tel: 0800 917 8776. Email: G-BAS-Customer-Service@cardinal.com

To celebrate a decline in cot death figures and commemorate the babies that died in 2005, FSID gave away 300 teddy bears in Christ Church Gardens, London. Latest figures show that 300 babies under the one year of age died suddenly and for no apparent reason in the UK in 2005. This represents a 16% fall compared with the previous year and is part of a continuing trend – numbers of cot deaths have fallen from 377 to 300 since 2001. FSID notes that there has been no fall in the total infant or post neonatal infant mortality rate, suggesting that better investigation is defining the cause of death in more babies.

FSID helpline 020 7233 2090

