

Reference Number: FOIAH2425/455
From: Other
Date: 12 November 2024
Subject: Pathway for Blood Testing in Maternity Unit/ Paediatric Unit

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the provision of care for babies with jaundice in your Trust.

I would like to know if the jaundice babies come to paediatric services for assessment and phototherapy or whether the babies stay with maternity services.

Q1 Do babies in the community have TcB (Transcutaneous) test when jaundice is suspected?

A1 No, a TCB test is carried out on babies that have come to Emergency Department the previous day and are sitting with 50 below of close to the phototherapy line on the NICE guidelines chart.

Q2 What level does the TcB need to be to indicate a blood test for Serum Bilirubin (TSB)?

A2 Two criteria have to be fulfilled – level of 250 reading on the TCB and also plotting on the NICE guidelines chart.

Q3 Where do the babies have the blood test for TSB (Total serum bilirubin) once jaundice has been identified in the community eg, at home, sent back to maternity or sent to paediatric unit?

A3 If the babies are on the home phototherapy pathway, the bloods will be done in the baby's home. If the baby is jaundiced at first presentation the baby can be referred into hospital for total serum bilirubin levels. A new pathway/system has been set up where the Community Children's Nursing Team will use their TCB to decide whether they need to do bloods. Therefore, the TCB will be used a decision-making tool.

Q4 If phototherapy is required, where is this carried out, in maternity or the paediatric unit?

A4 If the baby is well enough to go home, and after parental consent, the baby will go home on the home phototherapy pathway. If the baby has other issues or concerns e.g not feeding/no place with Community Children's Nursing Team/parents refuse/language barriers, then the baby will be admitted.