

Title: Exception report process for babies who are inpatients at 44 weeks CGA.

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Date: 21st January 2015

South East Coast ODN is introducing a new exception report form for babies who are inpatients at 44 weeks corrected gestational age.

The NHS England service specification is clear that units (providers) should notify the Area Team and ODN about babies who are likely to remain on the neonatal unit beyond 44 weeks CGA.

2014/15 Standard Contract for Neonatal Critical Care states *“Babies will be discharged from neonatal care as soon as condition allows with reporting to AT commissioners and the ODN of babies likely to remain on the neonatal unit beyond 44 weeks post menstrual age (4 weeks corrected gestation), taking into consideration the ongoing support for the baby and carers.*

Ongoing admission of babies with delayed discharge for social or community resource reasons must be agreed with commissioners as soon as the delay is anticipated.

Until now the ODN has monitored babies at this gestation using the BadgerNet report: Inpatient after 44 weeks gestation. Once a baby reaches this age they appear on the report and the network manager contacts the unit manager for information. This means the babies are beyond 44 weeks CGA once identified, also this is downloaded once a month so babies can be missed.

To enable early identification a form has been produced which has been sent with this document; please could all units complete and return to the network manager as indicated on the form. The network manager will contact the nurse manager/matron for further information if required and will update the commissioners at NHS England. This process has been adopted by Thames Valley & Wessex Neonatal ODN; the aim is to work to similar process across the South.

Please ensure your teams are aware of this requirement, all teams will be updating BadgerNet daily so they will be aware when babies reach 42 weeks CGA, at this point there should be a clinical discussion about the likely discharge date; if it is expected to be after 44 weeks CGA the form should be completed and returned. Similarly if a unit is accepting a LTV baby back from PICU and they are above 44 weeks CGA please contact the network manager and commissioners (service specialists), contact details on the form.