

16 November 2011

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Team 3

Leading Senior Constable King Taylor  
C/- Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11  
222 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear King

**Inquest into the death of Cara Zambelli**  
**Your ref: 3652/06**

We refer to the inquest in this matter and, in particular, to the various recommendations outlined by the Coroner in her findings.

On behalf of Eastern Health, we wish to address those recommendations as follows:

- 1. Recommendation that the Maternity Handbook be reviewed and amended to provide specific direction about the care, retention and documentation of the placenta and cord in any circumstances where pathology and histopathology is warranted**

We are instructed by our client that this recommendation will be incorporated into the organisation's Clinical Practice Guideline, as part of a complete review of the Clinical Practice Guidelines, which should be completed in approximately three months time. We will forward to your office a copy of the amended Clinical Practice Guideline as soon as we are able.

- 2. Recommendation that the taking of photographs of the placenta and cord be included as routine in all obstetric adverse outcomes**

Please find enclosed a memorandum issued on 22 September 2011, forwarded to all Eastern Health maternity staff, instructing them to include a photograph of the cord and the placenta in the medical record where an adverse outcome has occurred.

- 3. Recommendation that Box Hill Hospital continue in its endeavours to secure 24 hour per day, 7 days per week on site obstetric registrar cover**

We confirm that 24 hour, 7 days a week cover by an on site obstetric registrar was implemented at Box Hill Hospital from 7 February 2011.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any further information you require.

Yours faithfully

**MINTER ELLISON**



Contact: Lisa Ridd Direct phone: +61 3 8608 2130 Direct fax: +61 3 8608 1070  
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Our reference: LMR 30-5375069  
Your reference: 3652/06

enclosure

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To: **All Maternity Staff (Eastern Health)**

Cc: Denise Patterson, Program Director Women & Children, Eastern Health  
Melissa Brown, Associate Program Director, Women & Children, Eastern Health  
Malcolm Barnett, Clinical Director Obstetrics and Gynecology, Eastern Health  
Geoff McCallum, Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Angliss Hospital  
Pam Hughes, Director of Nursing, Healesville Hospital  
J Hardiman, Manager Health Information Service, Box Hill Hospital  
L De Valle, Manager Health Information Services, Angliss Health

From: **Yvonne Butterfield**  
Associate Director, Quality Planning and Innovation, Women and Children Services

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

Subject: **Photography of Cord and Placenta in Adverse Outcomes**

Eastern Health has been requested by the Coroner (following a case review) that in all instances where an adverse outcome appears to have occurred that a photograph of the Placenta and Cord are taken and added to the patients file.

Measurements of the placenta and cord are NOT required. Just a normal photograph is sufficient.

Photographs should be scanned into the medical record for ongoing reference if present when the medical record is sent to Health Information for Scanning into CPF.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have question please contact me on 98953344.

Thank You

Yvonne Butterfield.