



## **BPSU Surveillance of Neonatal Stroke**

### **Commences in April 2022**

*Neonatal stroke is a devastating condition that causes brain injury in babies and often leads to lifelong impairment. Presently, we have insufficient information about the number of babies with neonatal stroke. We know little about which babies are most at risk and what problems they will likely face. There is no agreed guidance on how we should investigate and treat babies with stroke. This is unlike stroke in older children and adults where much more is known.*

*We will be asking all UK and Irish paediatricians and neonatologists to report any babies with neonatal stroke in the first 3 months of life to the BPSU. Reporting clinicians will then be directed to the online questionnaires via the dedicated BPSU online platform.*

*This study will inform us of the burden of neonatal stroke to better allocate resources. By exploring how babies with stroke present and are cared for, future studies looking at prevention and new treatment options can be better designed.*

**Duration:** *BPSU surveillance will be undertaken for 13 months, commencing in April 2022.*

#### **Case definition:**

*Neonatal stroke, of either arterial ischaemic, venous thrombosis or haemorrhagic in origin, suspected in any child from birth till **90 days of age**, of any gestation. They must have:-*

- 1. Any neurological symptoms (e.g. seizure, neurological deficit, lethargy, abnormal tone, poor feeding)*

#### **AND either**

- 2a Neuroimaging (such as MRI or CT) showing disruption or evidence of disruption of cerebral blood flow*
- 2b Neuropathologic studies showing disruption or evidence of disruption of cerebral blood flow*

*Please exclude cases of germinal matrix haemorrhage/intraventricular haemorrhage or periventricular leukomalacia in preterm infants (defined as below 37 weeks of gestational age) or hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy.*

**Reporting Instructions:** *Please report any child seen in the last month who meets the case definition in the UK or the Republic of Ireland from April 2022. Please report all suspected cases, even if the results of the investigations are pending.*

**Website:** <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/bpsu/neonatal-stroke>

**Funding:** Sir Peter Tizard Bursary 2019/2020

**Ethical approval:** East Midlands – Nottingham 1 Research Ethics Committee (reference: 21/EM/0110);  
HRA Confidentiality Advisory Group (reference: 21/CAG/0061);  
Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care (reference: 2122-0006 Kwok);  
Privacy Advisory Committee in Northern Ireland.

**Further information:**

All reporting clinicians will be part of the UK and Ireland Neonatal Stroke Study team with contributions acknowledged in all publications arising from the study.

If you would like any advice regarding the eligibility of a particular case for inclusion in the study please contact:

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