

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/246**  
**Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn**

**Request details**

I write under the Freedom of Information Act to request copies of all Clinical policies and procedures, guidelines and standards that were in use to govern the clinical decisions concerning the treatment of Haemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN) also known as Rhesus Disease/Maternal Antibodies made in the Neo-natal units within the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board from 1998 to 2002.

These documents will include but not be limited to the management of:

Rhesus Disease  
Haemolytic Disease of the newborn (HDN)  
Neo natal jaundice in pre-term and term neonates  
Hyperbilirubinemia in the newborn  
Phototherapy  
Exchange transfusions in neonates

And any other interventions/guidelines into how to treat Haemolytic Jaundice in newborns

*These documents pre-date NICE guidelines and the parameters of 1998 - 2002 are especially important.*

**Response details**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. To comply with our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance I can advise that a neonatal handbook was introduced around 2004 and that further development of many of the UHB's guidelines originates from around that time onwards.

The 'rule of thumb' for treating jaundice at the time was 'gestational age x10 = exchange level jaundice' and '(gestational age x10) minus 100 = phototherapy level', which is exactly the same as the current NICE guidance (i.e. a baby born at 34 weeks gestational age has a phototherapy level of  $(34 \times 10) - 100 = 240$ , which is what NICE still say now). This was widely practiced and is what people recall they used. Other than that UHB staff would have referred to textbooks (Nelson and Robertson being the 2 main large neonatal textbooks at the time – and still are).