

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016

## Professionals' information around the use of the Bednest crib and safety



In April 2015 there was a tragic death of a 7 week old baby who died through positional asphyxia having been able to get her head over the fold down side of a Bednest crib. The family are from the Mid Sussex area. Last week was the inquest into her death and the coroner has raised some concerns over the safety of the crib.

One of her concerns is that there are a number of Bednest cribs in circulation where the owners are not aware of the risks of using the half fold down feature, nor do they have the modification kit, which is to be used to prevent the side from having that fold down feature. She is also concerned that although people may have the modification kit that the importance of using it has not been made explicit.

She urged Bednest to ensure that they worked to reach their clients, and for the press to work with the family in trying to reach those who have the crib, in particular the second hand market.

The coroner is going to issue a further regulation 28 which is a "prevention of further deaths" regulation but as it is unsure of the timing of that it feels important that SCFT staff are aware of her concerns so that actions can be taken promptly as needed.

**PTO**

**I am requesting:**

- a) SCFT staff to give any family they may be seeing who may have a Bednest crib the statement from Bednest from their website (attached).
- b) The family is aware that the side should not be used in the fold down position because a baby can get it's head stuck over the side leading to death.
- c) The modification kit is to be used to prevent that from happening. If the family do not have that kit they need to contact Bednest as soon as possible. Full contact details are included on the handout sheet or available online: [www.bednest.com](http://www.bednest.com).
- d) If they have the modification kit but have not used it, please give the reasons why it must be used and strongly advise the family to contact Bednest for detailed instructions on how to apply it or, as in the statement, return the crib to Bednest for them to apply the modification.
- e) As always continue to promote the safer sleep message; the safest place for a baby to sleep is on its back on a firm flat waterproof mattress and not to bed share if a parent smokes, has been drinking, is taking drugs and if the baby is premature.

Thank you for your help in preventing further deaths.

Annette Lawrance-Owen  
Specialist Nurse Rapid Response/ Bereavement Counsellor/CONI lead  
Room 3B Stillman House  
St Richard's Hospital  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 6SE  
Mob: **07984 915869**  
[Annette.Lawrance-Owen@nhs.net](mailto:Annette.Lawrance-Owen@nhs.net)