



19 December 2012

Investigation into the safety, quality and standards of services provided by the Health Service Executive to patients, including pregnant women, at risk of clinical deterioration and as reflected in the care and treatment provided to Savita Halappanavar

1 Investigation Team

The Minister for Health, with the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, has approved the appointment of the members of the Investigation Team as authorised persons to conduct the investigation, in accordance with Section 70(1)(b) of the Health Act 2007 (the 'Act') into the safety, quality and standards of services provided by the Health Service Executive to patients, including pregnant women, at risk of clinical deterioration and as reflected in the care and treatment provided to Savita Halappanavar.

2 Investigation Team of Authorised Persons

Dr Paul Fogarty, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Ulster Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Dr Paul Fogarty is a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist. He graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 1981 and then entered the Northern Ireland Postgraduate Training Programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, completing his DRCOG in 1984 and MRCOG in 1986. He completed his Doctorate of Medicine by thesis in 1992 and in 1993 was appointed as a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist to Ulster Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland where he works to this day. He received his Fellowship from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in 1998 and is a Member of the Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He has been a member of the RCOG Council since 1995 and was elected RCOG Honorary Treasurer in 2010.

Dr Fogarty's special interests include ultrasound and fetal medicine, minimal access surgery, urogynaecology and pelvic organ prolapse, medical education and communication. He is an RCOG trained assessor and has carried out hospital inspections, performance reviews of individual specialists and external review of critical incidents throughout the British Isles.

He chaired the UK National Patient Safety committee that produced the obstetric checklist and co-chaired the production of the Northern Ireland Maternity Strategy.

Dr Nuala Lucas, Consultant Anaesthetist, Northwick Park, England

Dr Nuala Lucas is a consultant anaesthetist at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow, Middlesex. She did her postgraduate anaesthetic training at the Imperial School of Anaesthesia, London. For two years she was the obstetric anaesthetic research fellow at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London. She serves on the committee of the Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association and is Chair of the Group of Obstetric Anaesthetists' in London. Her major interests include the critically ill parturient and the future of obstetric anaesthesia training.

Denise Boulter, Midwife Consultant, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland

Denise is a registered nurse and registered midwife. She commenced her nurse training in the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1989 and qualified in 1992. In 1994 she commenced training as a midwife in the then Royal Maternity Unit and completed training in 1996. In July 1996 she commenced working in Antrim Maternity Unit as a midwife where she gained experience in all areas of midwifery but primarily in an intra-natal setting. Following this in 2000 she joined the midwife-led team in the Mater Maternity Unit in Belfast where she, with a team of colleagues, was responsible for the ante-natal, intra-natal and postnatal care of a group of women with low risk pregnancies who booked into the unit. In 2005 she took up the position of Lead Midwife for delivery suite in the Mater. In May 2008 she was appointed to a part-time seconded position as Midwifery Advisor to the CNO at the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety (DSSPS), Northern Ireland, and in February 2009 was appointed to the position on a permanent full-time basis with the increased remit to include children's services. In September 2011 she was appointed to the role of midwife consultant within the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland. This regional role involves being the regional professional lead on commissioning, to provide expert professional and public health advice within the Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board, lead on service development and improvement initiatives and be designated responsible officer for serious adverse incidents within maternity. It also involves membership of the Public Health Agency's Safety Forum which is currently running a perinatal collaborative, part of which is developing a regional early warning score for maternity.

Dr Bharat Patel, Consultant Medical Microbiologist, Health Protection Agency, UK

Dr Bharat Patel is a consultant medical microbiologist for the Health Protection Agency in the UK (HPA) and an honorary consultant medical microbiologist for Barts Health NHS Trust, and infection control consultant for Ealing Hospital NHS Trust Community Services Brent.

He has provided expert infection prevention and control advice and support to many NHS trusts during and outside peer review processes. In the last few years he has worked with two national healthcare regulators, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, Northern Ireland, and Healthcare Inspectorate for Wales. This work in several instances, with the regulators and on occasions with other organisations, has involved being a member of several independent review teams.

Dr Robert Cunney, Consultant Microbiologist, Health Protection Surveillance Centre and Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin

Dr Robert Cunney is a consultant microbiologist at the Health Service Executive's (HSE's) Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and the Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin. He graduated in medicine from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1988. He trained in general medicine, before specialising in medical microbiology at Beaumont Hospital and RCSI Dublin, followed by a fellowship at McMaster University Medical Centre in Canada. He has a special interest in antimicrobial resistance and the appropriate use of antibiotics. He is the European Centre for Disease Control's (ECDC) National Focal Point for antimicrobial resistance for Ireland, and coordinates national surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial consumption. He is also the Medical Director of the Irish Meningococcal and Meningitis Reference Laboratory, and coordinator of the Irish Paediatric Surveillance Unit.

Loretta Evans, Lay Person, Patient Safety Champion

Loretta Evans was a stay-at-home mother of two children until 28 July 2005 when her youngest son Colin passed away in a Dublin hospital six weeks after major surgery. Afterwards the family made a complaint regarding the standard of care Colin had received, which after three years, and following an inquiry, resulted in a new handover policy dedicated to Colin's memory being implemented in the hospital. Following her experiences, Loretta has been involved in presenting to national and international patient safety conferences.

The appointment of a final member of the Team is currently being concluded and their details will be published in due course

The Investigation will be managed by staff from within the Authority who will form part of the Investigation Team:

Phelim Quinn, Director of Regulation, Health Information and Quality Authority

Hilary Coates, Investigation Lead, Health Information and Quality Authority

Mary Dunnion, Investigation Deputy Lead, Health Information and Quality Authority

Margaret Cahill, Investigation Data Manager, Health Information and Quality Authority

Emily McLoughlin, Investigation Coordinator, Health Information and Quality Authority