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Mr Alex Cunningham MP
Unit 121, Stockton Business Centre
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Dear Alex

Pulse Oximetry testing of all newborns to detect heart conditions

Thank you for your letter dated the 9 May 2014 and your enquiry regarding the practice of Trusts offering Pulse Oximetry screening of newborns during their newborn infant physical examination (Newborn Check).

I would like to reassure you that as a Trust we have been undertaking this examination for a number of years and it has been part of our guidelines since 2008. The guideline is titled "Assessment & Evaluation of Suspected Heart Disease in Newborn Infants" and states that "All babies born at University Hospital of North Tees and Hartlepool must have a saturation reading performed prior to discharge."

We therefore fully support this approach as part of our newborn screening and care and will continue to ensure that the practice is embedded within our Trust with all the midwives and paediatric medical staff who undertake these examinations.

Yours sincerely

Alan Foster MBE
Chief Executive