

09 February 2026

Cold Debriefs following critical or serious clinical events in Paediatric ED

I would be grateful if you could please confirm whether the Trust holds recorded information relating to the use of cold debriefs following critical or serious clinical events, such as respiratory or cardiac resuscitations, unforeseen patient deaths, medical futility, medical errors and patient / visitor violence, specifically in the Paediatric Emergency Department's that are Major Trauma Centres.

The Trust can confirm that the Paediatric Emergency Department creates a record of any debriefs which are undertaken.

If so, please provide copies of any recorded information you hold that sets out:

1. Whether cold debriefs are routinely conducted following critical events

Where considered necessary, a hot debrief is routinely undertaken. There is no routinely conducted cold debrief.

2. The specified timeframe for when cold debriefs are held following an event.

There is no formally approved timeframe. This will be initiated on an as required basis.

3. Which staff groups or roles are expected or required to attend cold debriefs, including nonparticipants of the critical event.

It will be clinically led with staff involved in incident and relevant support staff.

4. Which role, team, or department is responsible for organising and facilitating cold debriefs

The team directly impacted by an incident or event will organise a cold debrief if it is required.

5. Whether a standard pro forma, template, or guidance document is used for cold debriefs, and if so, a copy of the most recent version.

There is no formal template.