



**HEALTH**  
KwaZulu-Natal

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 06 DECEMBER 2007**

**EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RE : ALLEGATIONS ON ANOTHER KLEBSIELLA DEATH ARE NOT TRUE**

The Department of Health opposes reports that a sixth baby subsequently died of Klebsiella Pneumoniae at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital last weekend.

According to some media reports a sixth baby demised of Klebsiella Pneumoniae at the hospital on Sunday. They are not true and have caused unnecessary confusion. It is necessary that we set the record straight once and for all.

We can confirm that the demised baby was one of two babies that were suspected to have contracted the Klebsiella Pneumoniae bacteria after five babies had already demised of Klebsiella Pneumoniae. The two babies were tested for the Klebsiella Pneumoniae and given medical treatment. Subsequent blood cultures from the babies were negative indicating that the infection was cleared.

This baby died six days after her blood culture become positive. A blood culture taken after appropriate treatment was negative. This baby therefore did not die from *Klebsiella Pneumoniae* infection.

The baby was born 12 weeks prematurely at home to an unbooked teenage mother and weighed only 1.1kg (very low birth weight). At birth, the baby was found to have contracted an intrapartum infection (i.e: whilst in the mother's uterus) with Group B streptococci. She was treated for this infection. In addition she had many other co-morbidities including a grade II Intraventricular haemorrhage (brain haemorrhage) and a patent ductus arteriosus (hole in the heart) which led to cardiac failure.

The ultimate cause of death in this baby was not from Klebsiella Pneumoniae infection. The three surviving babies are now doing well and are still being observed in hospital while they put on weight.

There have been no further blood cultures with Klebsiella Pneumoniae and the outbreak has been contained and is officially over. The number of deaths linked to this outbreak remains at five.

So, there can be no conclusive evidence linking the death of the baby to Klebsiella Pneumoniae

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