

Ben Anderson

Correspondence: Letter to BCH

The Review Team and CEO Sarah-Jane Marsh state that;

“the cardiology team had failed to consider the respiratory problems Hayley had whilst on PICU and put these into context with her present problems”.

“The Investigation has highlighted there was an incorrect perception amongst the cardiology doctors that a patient needed to demonstrate 5 criteria, in order to be considered for admission to PICU.

This is not the case as patients are admitted for a range of critical conditions based on their overall condition.

RCA Outcome

“The patient should have been referred to PICU for review on 10 November 2009.

Early commencement of pressure support could have prevented the patient’s death”.

The information presented to me is straight forward.

The cardiology team failed and Hayley could still be alive today if they had done their job properly.

Ben Anderson was part of that team of cardiology doctors who failed Hayley.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR JUSTIFICATION IN CALLING HIM AN OUTSTANDING DOCTOR?

From Friday 6 November – 9 November 2009, my parents repeatedly told Ben that something was seriously wrong with Hayley.

He continued to deny that anything was wrong with Hayley and insisted that she was fine.

“the review team noted that an increasing need for oxygen 3 weeks after her surgery should have raised clinical concern”

Ben insisted Hayley was “FINE”.

On 8 November 2009 – 11.00

WR Dr Anderson

“Armilloride 0.1 mg/kg BD
Frusomemide 1 mg/kg TDS
Gaining weight”

GAINING WEIGHT

Hayley was gaining weight because her heart was failing.

Retaining fluid is one of the most obvious signs of heart failure.

She didn't have the energy to eat from Friday 6 November 2009.

She hardly opened her eyes.

LUNGS

What about her lungs.

Hayley's X-ray proved she had massive consolidation left lung volume loss right lung. The chest x-ray was taken at 11.00 am on Monday 9 November 2009.

Massive consolidation doesn't suddenly happen.

Why did Ben not pick up on it?

FUROSEMIDE

Ben told Byronny Winnal that

- Her medications were unchanged

Ben changed Hayley from 6 mg/kg TDS to 1 mg/KG TDS

This is careless and dangerous.

Dr Stumper – should this not raise concerns over his clinical practice?

Hayley had deranged LFT and her urine output was dependent on her diuretic management.

She had been weaned to 3 mg on intensive care but then was increased to the maximum dose of 6 mg/kg.

Hayley was on 6 mg/kg of Furosemide from 14 October until 4 weeks after her operation on 11 November 2009.

When I first read the notes I was horrified and thought that was why Hayley died because her diuretic furosemide was dropped too quickly. Her support was taken away by Ben Anderson.

The excess fluid in her body couldn't be expelled and therefore the workload on her heart was increased.

Her lungs were filling up with fluid and she just couldn't cope with trying to get rid of a great wall of fluid.

Hayley did have these problems but it was not made worse by Ben's instructions and changing her meds.

WHY?

Because when I checked the drug medication chart it was still 6 mg/hr.

Ben's own colleagues ignored his instructions.

WHY?

Because it was dangerous?

What do you think Dr Stumper? Would you drop from 6 mg to 1 mg suddenly?

Hospital Investigation states;

“Hayley began to clinically deteriorate on 9 November 2009”

But Ben Anderson told the Grand Ward Round on Monday 9 November that;

“Hayley was FINE”.

It was only because Hayley’s granda interrupted the Ward round and said,

“excuse me, this child is not fine” that the chest x-ray and blood gases were ordered.

Dr Stumper asked for SHO Niddi to organise Liaison with Dr Casey in Belfast in regards to sending her back to Ireland.

The RCA Investigation Report says;

Ben Anderson

“had few contacts with this patient and none were within the last days of her life”.

THIS IS NOT CORRECT

Ben saw Hayley

Friday 6 November 2009

Saturday 7 November 2009

Sunday 8 November 2009

Monday 9 November 2009

Hayley’s grandad Edward Stevenson asked Ben three times

“Is Hayley’s condition life threatening? Does she require further surgery?”.

Hayley died on Wednesday 11 November 2009

He last saw Hayley on 9 November 2009.

You do the math.

Ben did see Hayley within the last days of her life.

The Investigation Team state;

“Ben Anderson is an outstanding doctor ...in his communication”.

If any of you believe that it is outstanding to tell a mother her child was FINE. and 26 hours afterwards she died and was lying in a morgue, then you have no value or respect for the life of an innocent child.

Does anyone stop to think before they put pen to paper, how callous remarks like this impact on the surviving family?

How can anyone of you justify or condone this type of behaviour?

Can you explain your logic in supporting this behaviour?

Can you tell me how you would feel if you were told by your doctor that your child was fine after they died”?

To make matters worse, Ben said exactly the same thing to my mother only minutes after Hayley died.

You could hear her wailing on the ward. She had just found out and had seen Hayley’s lifeless body, she wandered like a wounded animal down the corridor to ask at the nurses station what had happened to Hayley.

She walked straight into Ben and said,

“Ben, Hayley’s dead. You’re walking down that corridor to look after all those sick babies and our wee Hayley’s dead.

Ben replied, “I’m only after finding out”

Mum said, “What happened to Hayley?”.

Ben replied, “Hayley was FINE”.

Nothing else, no sympathy, condolences, NOTHING.

Mum wandered to the nurses station. She saw Junior Sister Sheila Bennett who lied and said Hayley had a cough and a cold and shut Hayley in ISOLATION.

She didn’t lift her head and kept writing when Mum asked,

“Hayley’s dead. What happened to Hayley?”.

Sheila replied,

“It happened at the change of the shift. I don’t know”.

Mum asked,

“Is there anyone who can tell me what happened?”.

Sheila replied, still writing not lifting her head.

“A doctor will be along later”.

Then turned her head away and kept writing.

No condolences, sympathy NOTHING.

IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
IS THAT IT?

WOULD IT HAVE KILLED THEM TO OFFER THEIR CONDOLENCES?

THERE APPEARS TO BE A SICKENING TREND.

All the way from the junior staff through to the doctors, through to the Investigation Team, all the way up to the C.E.O. Sarah-Jane Smith.

There is a cancer in your organisation. A complete lack of empathy, decency and humanity.

THIS MUST CHANGE.

That is why I have developed.

H.E.A.L. –

Hayley's Early Awareness Lifeline.

Correspondence: Statement

09/20:28 HF

Meeting with Ben Anderson – who requested a meeting.

Lengthy discussion with Ben regarding the on-going investigation.

In addition to his statement he made the following comments;

Only met mum on a couple of occasions while HF was alive. The interactions were fairly friendly but limited. Most of his contact was on the Sunday and Monday with the grandparents.

On Sunday the grandparents did express concerns regarding HF's wellbeing. Ben took this seriously, checked the obs, examined HF and found nothing to give him significant cause for concern. He knew she was being treated for an infection

The issue of pneumonia was documented in the notes when HF was in PICU and BA readily accepts that this may not have been communicated directly to the family. He has no evidence either way.

Ben explained the interaction between the narrowed vessels leaving HF's heart following the operation, the raised right atrial pressure and the problems with HF's right upper lobe of the lung. He explained that right heart failure would normally be indicated by; Head and facial swelling, congestion of the venous draining and liver engorgement, none of which were indicated with HF.

It is common for cardiology patients to have fluctuating oxygen levels and although he acknowledges the increase in Oxygen prior to the weekend, given the overall low level of oxygen he does not consider that this was concerning on the Sunday when he caused HF.

Ben saw Mum on Monday morning pre 8.00am and Mum told Ben that HF was better than she had been.

When Mum met Ben outside the Coroner after the death of HF she said to him that she was not surprised that HF had died because she knew that HF was poorly and the hospital had not taken her seriously. Ben said she may have mentioned the word "neglect" at some point. He told Ben that she had forgiven him and hoped he could go on and enjoy life in Australia.

Actions:

1. Need to check if Tarik Desai had involvement in HF's care?
2. Need to check with Phil which Cardiologist should attend the RCA. Paul Miller?
3. ✓ Need to check Zendka Reindhardt's statements in relation to right and left lungs on the 9/11/09 she refers to left lung consolidation and loss of volume on the right. On 10/11/09 refers to x-ray changes but does not indicate to left or right lung.

Correspondence: Paula Stevenson Statement

I expressed my concerns to all of the staff on Ward 11 after Hayley's death and I demanded answers but no one could explain. I even spoke with Dr Ben Anderson and asked him why nothing had been done sooner. Again, all he could say was Hayley was fine. His words absolutely failed me. I could not believe that he was still insisting Hayley was fine. I told him, 'Ben, Hayley is dead. She's lying in the morgue.' I said to him that she couldn't be fine and he did not offer any condolences or sympathy.

Correspondence: Sylvia Stevenson Statement

I waited until Dr Ben Anderson came to do his round and for the first time I decided to speak up and ask him some questions about Hayley's condition. I asked how much danger Hayley was in, did she need more surgery, what can we do to help Hayley, as she was by this time head bobbing. I was unaware at this time that head bobbing in a child means they are in severe respiratory distress. Dr Ben Anderson assured me that Hayley was fine and he explained that he had seen children with much worse head bobbing in the past. He said it was probably due to the fact that she was so small and had spent a lengthy period of time in paediatric intensive care unit. He informed me that her body was fighting off the chest infection so just going to take her a bit longer to get better and there was nothing to worry about. Against my instincts, I believed him and trusted that he knew what he was talking about, although it was plain to see that Hayley was suffering.

Correspondence: Official Complaint Letter

During the week before Hayley died, my dad Edward Stevenson asked Dr Ben Anderson on three separate occasions "were Hayley's problems life threatening, would she require further surgery to make her better" Dr Ben Anderson was very adamant "No, her condition wasn't life threatening and she wouldn't require any further surgery". Dad kept asking and persisting because Hayley's condition was deteriorating, he also asked two other doctors the same question. They all reassured him Hayley wasn't in DANGER. He asked this question 6 times in total over a 7 day period.

Monday 09/11/09

WARD ROUND:

Dr Ben Anderson told his colleagues that Hayley was FINE. My Dad stood between Dr Stumper and Dr Anderson and said "excuse me, the child is not FINE"