

## Case learning: Rapid Read

### Risks associated with seizure monitors

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Child Death Overview Panel review the deaths of all children under 18 years, to identify factors which may have contributed to the death, any learning to be shared, and to take actions to reduce the risk of future child deaths.

The Panel reviewed the case of a child who sadly died because of an epileptic seizure. The family were using a seizure monitor system at the time, but it did not trigger an alarm.

Use of seizure monitors is not recommended by the UHL Paediatric Neurology Medical Team.

#### **SEIZURE MONITORS**

Parents/carers of a child with epilepsy may be understandably anxious about the risk of their child having seizures at night when they are sleeping.

Several companies manufacture various devices (including wrist-worn sensors, movement sensors to place in the bed, video systems, and smartwatch Apps) which are marketed as 'seizure alert systems'.

#### **CURRENT EVIDENCE**

There is not currently enough evidence to show that using a seizure alarm or monitor can guarantee someone's safety during a seizure.

#### **POTENTIAL RISKS**

Device systems can be complex to set up and use, and if not set up correctly may give a false impression that they are functioning.

Device systems may give false reassurance to parents/carers that their child is safe, and may unintentionally lead to reduced vigilance.

Device systems often rely on movement sensors, which may lead to false alarms.

#### **ACTIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS TO TAKE**

If you become aware that a family is using a seizure monitor system, make them aware that these systems are not currently recommended by clinicians, and of the associated potential risks.

If you are supporting a family with access to equipment that you are not familiar with, check with the relevant clinical team as to whether the equipment is recommended for use.