

URGENT and CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Consultant

I need to discuss a serious problem asap. your phone is engaged. I believe the other A&E consultants are away.

At 3 am today a 5 year old girl Kaylee Jones was brought to A&E with fever and a rash. Her triage obs were T 39.7, pulse 172, RR 56, GCS 15 and SaO2 98% on air.

The A&E notes say that a Dr Black (EM ST3) saw Kaylee at 03.15 and notes that yesterday she had painful legs and was reluctant to walk. Last night she had a headache and fever. At 02:30 today her father noticed a rash on Kaylee's legs. He was worried about meningitis and so brought Kaylee to A&E.

Dr Black recorded a non-blanching purpuric rash on Kaylee's legs and trunk but thought this was Henoch Schonlein purpura (rather than meningococcal disease), apparently because of the leg pain (?joints) and she was GCS 15 with no meningism. He wrote "Calpol, urinalysis, BP" and "D/W Paeds SpR - agrees - treat as HSP".

At 06:55 Dr Black noted "Pain in legs. Headache eased. No photophobia, no neck stiffness, no vomiting. T 37.8" and sent Kaylee to the Pediatric ward.

A Paeds SpR saw Kaylee on the ward at 07:30 and only then started antibiotics and IV fluids for presumed meningococcal septicaemia. Kaylee is now in PICU on a ventilator and inotropic support. She is extremely ill, with purpura fulminans and very poor limb circulation. If she survives (which at present looks unlikely) she may need limb amputations.

Kaylee's parents are understandably very angry and have already mentioned the press solicitors and complaining to the GMC.

I thought you should know about this asap.

Consultant, PICU