



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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UPDATE

OUTBREAK: MAHATMA GANDHI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The number of babies that have died at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Phoenix remains at 14. This follows the outbreak of Klebsiella infection in the neonatal ICU at this health institution on 23 May 2005 when the first case with a positive blood culture was discovered.

Blood cultures taken from the 14 babies who have died tested positive for Klebsiella. A temporary nursery has been set up in a cubicle in the Labour Ward to house neonates.

Preliminary investigations reveal that the outbreak could be caused by any of the following sources:

- Babies who are infected before entering the facility
- Mothers who enter the nursery to breastfeed their babies
- Staff members who are attending to the patients
- Nosocomial infections.

ENDS

**For more information please contact Mrs Lindiwe Khuzwayo
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