

MEMORANDUM

From: The County Medical Officer of Health,  
Guildhall Road,  
Northampton.

To: District Nurse/Midwives.

24 DEC 1963

100/63

Ref: G/128.

INCIDENCE OF CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS.

Two of the greatest problems remaining in the protection of the lives of young infants and the prevention of still-births are prematurity and malformations. The latter, in addition to leading to death in some cases, may result in permanent handicap in children who survive.

The Ministry of Health has now requested local health authorities to set up a system whereby the numbers of children born with congenital malformations can be reported to the General Register Office. This will allow comparisons to be made between different parts of the country and between one period of time and another, and this should help in the identification of aetiological factors. To achieve this desirable object local health authorities are asked, from 1st January 1964, to arrange for family doctors, midwives and obstetricians to notify them of children with malformations apparent at birth.

In order to comply with the request of the Ministry, it has become necessary to prepare new birth notification cards. I am enclosing a supply of these, which should be used in respect of all births from 1st January, 1964; thereafter any of the old type of birth notification cards still in your possession should be destroyed.

All congenital abnormalities, no matter how slight in degree, should be notified and, if there is any further information which I can give you on this subject, please let me know and I shall try to supply it.

Copy to:- Asst. Medical Officers and  
Health Visitors for information.

*J. J. A. Reid.*