# NHS Rolls Out Martha's Rule Allowing Second Medical Opinions Across 143 Hospital Sites



The NHS has announced the first rollout of Martha’s rule across 143 hospital sites by March 2025. Martha’s rule allows patients and their families to seek a second medical opinion if they feel their concerns are not being adequately addressed. This initiative follows the death of 13-year-old Martha Mills from sepsis in 2021.

The rule provides an internal phone number accessible 24/7, enabling families to request an urgent review from a critical care outreach team. Posters and leaflets will inform patients about this option throughout the participating hospitals.

Martha’s parents, Merope Mills and Paul Laity, campaigned for this policy after their concerns about their daughter's health were dismissed, culminating in her death from a pancreatic injury-related infection. A coroner ruled she could have survived with timely intensive care transfer.

NHS England’s national medical director, Professor Sir Stephen Powis, described the policy as one of the most significant patient care changes in years. While some hospitals will need additional resources to implement the rule, NHS bosses aim for nationwide adoption.