




Derek Winter
Senior Coroner for the City of Sunderland

	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr Ken Bremner Chief Executive City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust Kayll Road Sunderland SR4 7TP</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Derek Winter, Senior Coroner for the City of Sunderland</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 10 January 2014 I commenced an investigation into the death of Mrs Jean James aged 75. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 12 March 2014. The conclusion of the inquest was: - 'Natural Causes Contributed to by Neglect'</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>On 24 December 2013 Mrs James was admitted to the Acute Medical Unit from the Emergency Department. The attending doctor was to complete the admission documentation, the electronic venous thromboembolism assessment and the electronic prescription record. This began at 4:50pm and after five interruptions was completed at 6:20pm. The intention was to prescribe prophylactic Dalteparin, but this was not done. Although Mrs James was seen by a number of other doctors, the opportunity to prescribe Dalteparin was not taken. The pharmacy did raise a query about Dalteparin but that did not appear to be communicated so that the problem could be rectified.</p> <p>Mrs James died on 8th January 2014.</p> <p>Post Mortem examination has revealed the cause of Mrs James' death as: - Ia Bilateral Pulmonary Thromboembolism; due to Ib Deep Venous Thrombosis</p>
5	<p>CORONER'S CONCERNS</p> <p>During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. -</p>

	<p>1) The time taken to complete the initial documentation was longer than it ought to have been given the interruptions to the process.</p> <p>2) The omission to prescribe prophylactic Dalteparin had not been subject to any effective review by a clinician or a nurse.</p> <p>3) When the pharmacy raised a query, it was not communicated effectively.</p> <p>4) Systems, forms, checklists, policies, procedures and protocols and compliance with them may not be sufficiently robust to deal with human factors.</p> <p>The failures prevailed without correction from 24 December until Mrs James' acute deterioration and death on 8 January 2014.</p> <p>I heard evidence about the number of initiatives that were under way, including increased vigilance. However, I remain concerned that such steps may be insufficient to effect change in a more timely way.</p>
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 9 May 2014. I, the Coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family - Irwin Mitchell Solicitors - DAC Beachcroft Solicitors - Risk Management, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust - Care Quality Commission - Regulation 28 Archivist for Coroner Society of England and Wales <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</p> <p>The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
9	<p>Dated this 13th day of March 2014</p> <p>Signature <u></u></p> <p>Senior Coroner for the City of Sunderland</p>