

Miss R Cobb
HM Senior Coroner North East Kent Area
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Your ref RC/MAB/MIC/T
Our Ref: SB/HG/hp

06 MAY 2014

30 April 2014

From the Chief Executive: Stuart Bain

Dear Ms Cobb

Re: Nicos Andreas MICHAEL deceased

Following the conclusion of the Inquest hearing into the death of Mr Nicos Andreas MICHAEL on 01 April 2014 and your subsequent letter dated 14 April 2014 pursuant to paragraph 7, Schedule 5 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, I write to inform you of the actions and considerations taken by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.

I note the concerns raised in your letter regarding the recording of a reported allergy to penicillin throughout the healthcare records pertaining to Mr Michael. I am concerned that the issues that you highlight are based solely on the findings of the Root Cause Analysis undertaken into this case and the various statements provided by the staff involved in the care and treatment of Mr Michael. There were no members of staff called to the Inquest into Mr Michael's death who may have been able to respond to your specific questions on this matter and explain the current process for recording allergies to you more clearly.

I will comment on your findings in the order they appear in your report.

1. There was no consistently recorded allergy to penicillin contained in the healthcare records held by the Trust. Indeed the patient himself did not articulate an allergy to penicillin at his pre-operative assessment; he did state allergies to Ibuprofen and Aspirin and red "known allergy" wristbands were applied from the date of his admission. The staff on ICU and on Kent Ward were all aware of Mr Michael's reported allergies.
2. There was a single reference to an allergy recorded in one volume of records embedded within the Surgical Integrated Care Pathway. The type of allergy/sensitivity was not quantified in any way. The allergy was not documented in any prior or subsequent set of