

THOMAS R OSBORNE Senior Coroner for Bedfordshire and Luton

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

The Chief Executive Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Capability House Silsoe Bedfordshire MK45 4HR

1 CORONER

I am Thomas R Osborne, Senior Coroner for Bedfordshire and Luton

2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

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/7http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On 23 April 2014 I commenced an Investigation into the death of **James Duncan STEWART** aged 84. The Investigation concluded at the end of the Inquest on 03 November 2014. The conclusion of the inquest was a NARRATIVE CONCLUSION: The deceased was admitted to Manton Heights Care Home, Woodlands, Bedford, on the 4th February 2014. He suffered from Parkinson's Disease and due to a systems failure, from the time that he came into the home, he was not given his medication because the drug Co-Careldopa was not included in his list of medication that was requested from the General Practitioner. He deteriorated and was admitted to Bedford Hospital on the 12th April 2014 with decreased mobility and responsiveness. He died at Airedale Nursing Home, 44 Park Avenue, Bedford on the 21st April 2014.

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

James had been a resident at Manton Heights Nursing Home since 04 February 2014 having come from sheltered housing where he was not coping. Whilst at

Manton Heights, it appears that he was not given his Parkinson Disease medication and this was only realised once he was admitted to Bedford Hospital South Wing on 12 April 2014 with decreased mobility and responsiveness. James was discharged from Bedford Hospital South Wing to the Airedale Nursing Home for end of life care. He sadly died on the 21 April 2014. His previous medical history was Parkinson's Disease, Dementia, Atrial Fibrillation Peripheral Vascular Disease and Knee replacement.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

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.

The **MATTERS OF CONCERN** are as follows:

- (1) There did not appear to be any system whereby when a new GP Practice is requested to prescribe medication from a patient's Nursing Home the details are not checked with the previous Practice. Such a system would have highlighted the fact that Mr. Stewart's Co-Careldopa medication had not been included.
- (2) It was felt by those giving evidence from the GP Practice, and from the two Nursing Homes, that the correct medication to be prescribed should be a matter for the General Practitioner to confirm rather than relying upon unqualified staff from the Home. They also felt that the Clinical Commissioning Group were the obvious body to ensure that a robust and consistent system is put in place.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action.

7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this Report, namely by **29 January 2015**. I, the Coroner, may extend the period.

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.

8 | COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my Report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:

Family

The Airedale Nursing Home

Manton Heights Nursing Home (Ranc Care Group)

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your Response.

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.

9 Dated 04 December 2014

THOMAS R. OSBORNE Senior Coroner

for Bedfordshire and Luton