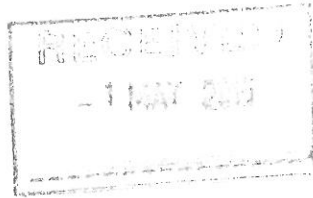


Our ref. [REDACTED]
Your ref. [REDACTED]

Coroner's Court
Mount Tabor
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Stockport
SK1 3PA



12Q
1/2015

Oak House
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27th April 2015

Dear Mr Pollard,

Re: Neil Thomas Westerman (Deceased)

Thank you for your letter of 11th March 2015, concerning the inquest of the above named. As always I am grateful to you for highlighting your concerns on the Regulation 28 'Report to prevent future deaths' and for providing me with an opportunity to respond.

I am able to address your areas of concern as follows:

A concern regarding the pre-operative assessment being carried out by a junior doctor and not the consultant who was to perform the operation, meaning the consultant was unaware of vital information.

This is not standard practice in the organisation and was unique to the particular operating surgeon concerned. Steps have been taken with the individual to ensure that there is not a repeat of this situation. The case has also been discussed at a General Surgery Morbidity & Mortality meeting and with the junior doctor who carried out the pre-operative assessment.

The operating notes did not contain details of the equipment and materials used during the procedure.

In this case this was an error; it is standard practice to document and record all relevant information for the related surgery, including the recording of equipment and the numbers of items used. In this case there was clearly an omission to record such details and the requirement for vigilance in this respect has been reiterated across the Surgery and Critical Care Business Group.

Despite numbers being in compliance with set guidelines, there were too few junior doctors on duty to cover the needs of the patients.

We are currently undertaking a review of the general surgical junior doctor rotas; this will include increased presence on the surgical assessment unit and a more even spread of doctors throughout the working week. Consideration is also being given to broadening the advanced nurse practitioner roles; these nurses have the competence and skills to carry out many of the basic junior doctor roles. The plan is to have these changes in place by the end of August 2015.

I hope that this response answers your concerns and provides you with the assurance that the Trust is committed to improving the quality of care we give to all our patients.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] Director of Nursing & Midwifery

In the absence of
Ann Barnes
Chief Executive