

Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths report

Yusuf ABDISMAD (died 02.01.15)

	<p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1. Dr Fiona Moore Chief Executive London Ambulance Service NHS Trust 220 Waterloo Road London SE1 8SD</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am: Coroner ME Hassell Senior Coroner Inner North London St Pancras Coroner's Court Camley Street London N1C 4PP</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, paragraph 7, Schedule 5, and The Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, regulations 28 and 29.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 5 January 2015, I commenced an investigation into the death of Yusuf Abdismad, aged 5 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 19 May 2015. I made a determination of death by natural causes.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Yusuf died from meningococcal septicaemia. His mother called 999 at 10.42am on 2 January 2015. Following assessment by the emergency medical despatcher, she was advised to call 111. She did so and then at some point during that call, the 111 service called 999 again. By the time the London Ambulance Service arrived, Yusuf was in cardiac arrest.</p>

<p>5</p>	<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>In attempting to gain an answer to the question, "Is the patient awake (conscious)?" the emergency medical despatcher first asked "Is Yusuf awake?" When Yusuf's mother replied "no", the EMD went on to ask "Is he conscious?"</p> <p>This seems a confusing way of approaching this very important question. If a person is asleep, then one cannot know if they are conscious without waking them. If the answer to the question "Is he awake?" is "no", then the most obvious follow up to that would appear to be, "Can you wake him?"</p> <p>Yusuf's mother was by now panicking and erroneously replied "yes" to the question of whether Yusuf was conscious, though she had not tried to wake him. The EMD assumed that Yusuf was asleep but rousable, which in fact is unlikely to have been the case.</p> <p>There were other difficulties with the call, such as the EMD's failure to recognise that a description of scratches all over might actually refer to a rash, missing the description of pupils no longer visible, and not thinking about the possibility of meningitis. These have, I was told at inquest, been addressed by training, but I remain concerned that such a method of attempting to elicit whether the patient is conscious or unconscious might be used by other EMDs.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion, action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that you and your organisation have the power to take such action.</p>
<p>7</p>	<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 27 July 2015. 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>
<p>8</p>	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHJ Peter Thornton QC, the Chief Coroner of England & Wales • Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer for England • Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) • National Ambulance Service Medical Directors (NASMeD) • NHS England • [REDACTED] Yusuf's mother <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 Senior Coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>DATE</p> <p>27.05.15</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SIGNED BY SENIOR CORONER</p>