



for Gloucestershire

	<p><b>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</b></p> <p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b></p> <p>I am Katy Skerrett, Senior Coroner for Gloucestershire</p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b></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. <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7</a> <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made</a></p>
3	<p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b></p> <p>On the 15/01/2014 I commenced an investigation into the death of Diana Ruth Hughes. The inquest was concluded on the 6/05/2015. She died of septicaemia caused by a necrotising fasciitis which had developed following her cholecystectomy, and a narrative conclusion was given.</p>
4	<p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b></p> <p>This 66 year old lady was admitted to hospital for an elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014. A single dose of prophylactic antibiotic was given before the procedure. No further antibiotics were administered until approximately 36 hours later. The surgery was converted to an open procedure due to complications found during the procedure. Mrs Hughes' surgeon requested that she be admitted to a surgical ward for a minimum of 48 hours. However she remained in the Day Surgery unit until 0900 hours on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Post-operatively Mrs Hughes developed tachycardia from 12.30pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. The nursing team attempted to contact the surgical team. Mrs Hughes did not receive a post operative review by the surgical team until the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> January when her condition rapidly deteriorated. At 19.25 hours a crash call was put out. She was returned to theatre and an emergency exploratory laparotomy was carried out, which revealed widespread infection and infarction of the bowel. It is probable that the widespread infection would not have proved fatal if Mrs Hughes had received antibiotic treatment, as opposed to a single dose of prophylactic antibiotics. Mrs Hughes remained critically ill throughout the emergency laparotomy. She passed away in the recovery room at 21.55 hours</p>
5	<p><b>CORONER'S CONCERNS</b></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 <b>MATTER OF CONCERN</b> is as follows. –</p> <p>(1) How 'special instructions' during a surgical procedure are communicated to other medical personnel via the WHO / Surgical checklist.</p>

6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></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><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 13<sup>th</sup> 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>
8	<p><b>COPIES and PUBLICATION</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons;</p> <p>(i) Iacopi Palmer Solicitors ([REDACTED]) representing the family,</p> <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 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Signature Senior Coroner for Gloucestershire</p>