

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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Your ref: PJB/Quinn

21 September 2015

Dear Mr Bedford

Re: Regulation 28 Response on the matter of Michael Quinn (MQ)

The Trust has investigated and acted upon your concerns as set out in your Coroner's Regulation 28 Report to prevent future deaths dated 3 August 2015.

Our understandings of your concerns that require action by the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust ("**Trust**") are:

1. While MQ's blood glucose of 13 mmol/l was not a factor in the infection that caused his death, you are concerned that there is confusion over what is an appropriate pre-operative blood glucose level
2. That the current Trust guideline is not in line with national guidelines and other published research articles
3. That Circle adopted methods based on the guideline in the Trust

Response

The Trust response to the concerns expressed by you is as follows:

The current Trust practice includes detailed attention to monitoring and controlling blood glucose levels before, during and after surgery. Part of the guideline (GL059 (v5)) did have an absolute level of 15 mmol/l for cancelling surgery.

The guideline has been revised (GL059 v6, attached) by [REDACTED] (Consultant Anaesthetist and clinical lead for pre-operative clerking) and [REDACTED] (Consultant Diabetologist). The revision includes the Diabetes Association recommendation and is aligned with current national guidance. In accordance with Trust governance processes this revised guideline was reviewed and has been approved by the anaesthetic departmental clinical governance committee on 18 September 2015. It has been uploaded to the Trust intranet and will be separately circulated to relevant medical and ward staff.

Of note, the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) have published a draft guideline, which would discharge many patients back to GPs for improved diabetic control. The national perioperative medicine conference (AAGBI, May 2015) confirmed that there is no consensus on action on the day of surgery. Once the AAGBI guideline is published in full the Trust will review the guidance again.

The Trust Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Medical Director (MD) have contacted their counterparts in Circle. The Circle CEO and MD have confirmed that Circle have a clear governance process for their own policies and documents and that they only make exception in areas clearly requiring inter-organisational collaboration, such as pan regional guidance on antibiotic prescribing. Circle CEO also confirms that while Circle recognises that clinicians may be influenced by their practice in their primary employment, Circle 'corporately' does not adopt other organisations' policies.

In summary, the Trust believes that it has taken all appropriate steps to address all of your concerns under R28.

Yours sincerely


Jean O'Callaghan
CEO

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