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Coroner Mary Hassell
Senior Coroner
Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
London, N1C 4PP

By email to Coroner's office:
[REDACTED]

25th May 2016

Dear Coroner Hassell,

Re: Prevention of Future Deaths notice in relation to Staphylococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome

Thank you for the email sent on 21st March, which contained a Prevention of Future Deaths notice in relation to the care of Mrs Rubana Pathan. As you know, Mrs Pathan sadly died on 21st November 2015 from Staphylococcus aureus Toxic Shock Syndrome following breast implant surgery. In the PFD, you requested that we disseminate information about this particular and rare manifestation among our clinicians who are responsible for caring for patients who are at risk of developing sepsis. I am writing to confirm the actions undertaken in response by Homerton University Hospital.

1. I requested that [REDACTED], the microbiologist who gave evidence at the inquest, perform an evidence and literature search on surgical site Staphylococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome, with particular reference to suppression of pus formation resulting in benign-looking wounds.
2. I have highlighted the need to have a high index of suspicion for sepsis associated with Staphylococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome, and shared [REDACTED] detailed literature search, with all doctors in the Trust by email.
3. The case will be discussed in detail at a Hospital Grand Round, in order to ensure that the organisation learns as much as possible from this sad occurrence. The Grand Round was scheduled to take place on 26th April, but unfortunately had to be postponed due to the junior doctors' industrial action which took place that day, so will take place on 28th June.
4. The Trust has directed particular focus on encouraging early recognition and treatment of patients with sepsis, as part of its Improving Quality programme. In Quarter 4 of 2015-16 we were extremely pleased that all patients admitted to Homerton with severe sepsis received antibiotics within one hour. In 2016/17, we are broadening the focus of this programme, seeking to improve the recognition, escalation and treatment of patients on our in-patient wards with potential sepsis.

I do hope that this provides assurance that we have taken appropriate action in response to the PFD notice. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'dr'.


Medical Director
Homerton University Hospital