

Mrs Caroline Beasley-Murray
Senior Coroner
HM Coroner's Office
County Hall
Seax House
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

13 April 2017

Dear Madam

Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths report
The inquest touching the death of Dean Gary Saunders
HMP Chelmsford
Date of death: 4th January 2016

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths Report dated 17 February 2017 issued to Care UK following the inquest into the death of Mr Dean Saunders.

Care UK is the provider of primary healthcare and mental health services at HMP Chelmsford.

Care UK would like to express its condolences to Mr Saunders' family and friends.

The matter of concern to you in so far as it relates to Care UK are highlighted in bold with the response set out below each concern. I am responding in my capacity as National Medical Director for Health in Justice

- 1. The lack of clarity regarding the hospital transfer process. The evidence at the inquest demonstrated that this is currently shrouded in confusion and contradiction (if the PSI and NHS England "good practice" is compared). Given the rationalisation of the process is still a "work in progress", the family consider that it should be given urgent consideration.**

I can confirm what I explained in evidence at the inquest. The Department of Health's 2011 Good Practice Procedure Guide on the transfer and remission of adult prisoners under Section 47 and Section 48 of the Mental Health Act sets out the procedure that is best practice to be followed in order to enable transfer of a patient under those sections from prison to a secure mental health facility.

The **Transfer Policy** that had been drafted locally at HMP Chelmsford is at odds with that best practice. However, the policy at HMP Chelmsford had been developed locally through the mental health team's experience of how best to speed up the transfer process. At the date of the inquest, this Transfer Policy was also a work in progress and not the perfected version.

As I discussed in evidence, the **Mental Health Pathway** has been revamped and further work has been undertaken with the team to improve mental health services in HMP Chelmsford. .

This revamped **Mental Health Pathway** is a strategic national policy and local sites develop local operating policies to describe how they will meet the requirements of the pathway. This will include a local **Transfer Policy** to outline the local processes (see below).

The Mental Health Pathway was initially developed by Care UK in Yorkshire with a group of clinical staff, NHSE commissioners and service users. The pathway has been subsequently reviewed by a group of Care UK experienced senior clinicians and further adapted to ensure it takes account of best practice. The work adapting the pathway from the Yorkshire model involved a multidisciplinary group including the national medical director, national lead nurse, regional manager, a head of healthcare and mental health team leader, all of whom have a wealth of experience with managing mental health in prisons. The pathway has been out to a wider group for consultation, including Care UK subcontractors (mental health trusts) and has been further amended to take account of their comments.

The new pathway has been shared with the local team at HMP Chelmsford and work has been undertaken to embed changes to clinical practice. It has been further shared nationally with Care UK regional managers and senior clinical leaders.

Under the transfer pathway section, the first referral to the secure mental health facility should encompass the first clinical recommendation under the Mental Health Act in order to trigger the transfer process. Exactly which secure mental health facility a patient is referred to will depend on a number of factors including where in the country the prison is located, where the prisoner lived before coming into prison and where a bed is available. Each prison will add its own local detail (such as contact details) to their Transfer Policy.

The new Mental Health Pathway was formally signed off at the quality assurance meeting held on 28 March 2017 and is currently being rolled out across all Care UK sites via a series of mental health workshops which will examine processes and quality of care provided. These workshops are facilitated by senior clinicians to support local teams to continuously improve the quality of their mental health service provision.

As you may be aware, there is due to be a change of healthcare provider within HMP Chelmsford and, therefore, the mental health pathway within the establishment may change.

I trust that the above response provides the information that you require but please do not hesitate to contact me if Care UK can be of any further assistance or if you would like copies of the Mental Health Pathway and Transfer Policy for HMP Chelmsford.

Yours sincerely



**National Medical Director Health in Justice
Care UK**