

MTB

**United Kingdom Homecare Association**  
The professional association for homecare providers



[Redacted]

Coroner's Office  
The City Courts  
Bradford  
BD1 1LA

Your ref: [Redacted]

7 August 2018

[Redacted]

**Pauline Taylor, deceased, Report to prevent further deaths**

Thank you for your contact with this office regarding the above.

This organisation is aware of the circumstances of Pauline Taylor's death and would like to extend our condolences to members of her family.

I can confirm that United Kingdom Homecare Association has made the following information available to homecare providers (most recent first):

1. A fact sheet, "UKHCA Guidance: Emollient Products - Guidance for homecare providers", was prepared for UKHCA by London Fire Brigade and published in January 2018. It can be downloaded from <http://www.ukhca.co.uk/downloads.aspx?ID=565>. A copy is enclosed.
2. An article, "Fire Chiefs issue warning on dangers of emollient creams", was published in the November 2017 issue of our bi-monthly magazine, "Homecarer". The magazine has a print circulation of around 3,000 copies and a further 4,000 copies are sent in PDF format. A copy is enclosed (please see pages 8 and 9).
3. An e-mail briefing was sent to around 2,000 of our member organisations entitled "Fatality highlights fire risks of using paraffin-based emollient" in June 2016. The text of this briefing is reproduced at the end of this letter.

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08 AUG 2018

## **Text of e-mail alert sent to UKHCA members, June 2016 ...**

### Fatality highlights fire risks of using paraffin-based emollient

A coroner's accidental death review has highlighted the dangers of using E45 emollient, which is highly flammable (although this is not displayed on the packaging). In the case in question, the deceased was smoking in bed and the Fire Officer considered that, as the bedding and clothing were covered in E45 residue, the emollient acted as an accelerant, increasing the intensity and speed with which the fire took hold. NHS England's helpful note on the coroner's review includes key points for action and learning for professional staff involved in patient or client care. (Thank you to Westminster Homecare for drawing this to our attention.)

We suggest that homecare providers caring for service users who use E45 or another paraffin-based emollient (prescribed or not) risk assess and discuss switching to a non-inflammable alternative with their community pharmacist, where appropriate. More about emollients:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/emollients/Pages/Introduction.aspx>