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Coroner ME Hassell – Senior Coroner Inner North London – St Pancras Corner's Court **Camley Street** London N1C 4PP

Date: 26/09/2018

Subject: Flora Marion BABER (died 22.02.18)

Specifically Adelaide Medical Centre's response to the recording of on GP notes a patient's sensitivity to Opioids.

Dear ME Hassell

The main finding for the practice was that whilst an entry by in the patient notes highlighting that the patient could become confused/nauseous when taking opiates, no formal evidence of an allergy was recorded, only sensitivity was noted. In addition we needed to consider how this might have been better recorded in the notes, given that future use of an opioid may be in the patient's best interest, as it was in the case for this patient.

In summary, our findings were that there is a way that sensitivities to opioid drugs could be recorded in the notes, however, this would be on a case by case basis. There would remain a need for clinical judgement and only apply where the sensitivity was significant.

The reminder of the letter outlines the actions and meetings we held.

Actions:

- 18/09/2019: Meeting • (Managing partner) and (Practice Manager); to discuss how the sensitivity to opioids could have been coded appropriately in the **GP** notes
- 18/09/2019: Meeting (Royal Free Geriatrician), • Compton Lodge Dept Care Home Manager; To share Adelaide's learning and see how this may support recording at the Royal Free and Compton Lodge.
- 25/09/2019: Internal Significant Event at the Adelaide where details shared with all clinicians at the Adelaide.

Summary Detail of Meetings/Actions

Detail: 18/09/2019: Meeting Manager) (Managing partner) and

(Practice

- The notes of the pt were reviewed.
- The entry by **Constant** on 31.10.2018, noted that pt could become confused/nauseous when taking opiates (buprenorphine). However no evidence of a formal allergy was recorded, only a sensitivity/side effects was noted.
- It is therefore unclear what coding should be applied to patient notes in these circumstances. Coding as an allergy may prevent future use of an opioid when appropriate to do so. This is recognised in the Coroner's report.
- On reflection, the sensitivity to opioids could have been recorded as a problem (Adverse reaction to drug) with relevant explanation (eg nausea and confusion). This would then trigger a corresponding warning message when any opioid is prescribed. However, this would be a judgement to be made by the clinician as many patients have a sensitivity to opioids, and this would only be done if the sensitivity is significant.
- This reflection/learning has been captured in a significant event and shared with the other clinicians in the practice.

The process a clinician could follow was demonstrated in the following screen prints:

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Screen print showing adding a problem (adverse reaction to drug) in EMIS with explanation:



Screen print showing alert that would then show when prescribing:

Detail 18/09/2019: Meeting Compton Lodge Dept Care Home

Royal Free Hospital had already conducted their review of the Coroner's report.

- gave an overview the Royal Free meeting.
- There was agreement with the Surgery that care is needed in recording sensitivity vs allergy • where there was a potential downside of not using an opioid if needed in the future

(Royal Free Geriatrician),

RFH felt it was not possible to consider a more systematic alerting of sensitivities/allergies between RFH to GP practice until the new IT system (planned for ~12mths) is implemented. Therefore, no process change to be considered at this time.

25/09/2019: Internal Significant Event at the Adelaide where details shared with all clinicians at the Adelaide.

- The details of the case were shared with the clinical team at the practice.
- Specifically discussed was the recording sensitivity to opioids as a problem with appropriate explanation that would allow an Alert to be automatically triggered whenever an opioid was prescribed.

If we can support you Investigation in any further way, do let the practice know.

Kind regards

(Practice Manager)

Managing Partner

Patient's Doctor