



Wye Valley
NHS Trust

Private & Confidential

H G Mark Bricknell
H.M. Senior Coroner :Herefordshire
Town Hall
St Owens Street
Hereford
HR1 2JP

Corporate Executive

County Hospital
Union Walk
Hereford
HR1 2ER

Tel: 01432 364000 Ext. 5119
Email Via Executive Assistant :
[REDACTED]

Date: 19th March 2019

Re: Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths, with regards to Mary Bertha Johnson

Dear Mr Bricknell

We have now had the chance to investigate the circumstances around the death of Mrs Johnson.

With reference to section 5 of your regulation 28 report, entitled coroners concerns, I would like to answer the points you raise in turn.

1. A lack of communication between staff:-
 - a) Feeding the patients prior to operation
 - b) Adherence to the consultants' instructions

Following our investigations, I can confirm that the patient was fed appropriately throughout her stay on the ward and placed nil by mouth, i.e. food and fluids restricted appropriately, prior to the planned operation on Tues 24th July 2018. The investigation has established that the consultants' instructions were not adequately adhered to over the weekend in question. The plan, quite clearly placed in the notes by the consultant team, was for Mrs Johnson to be operated on Monday 23rd July. Fortunately, this instruction appears not to have been read by the nurse caring for the patient over the weekend in question. This nurse appeared to have been under the impression that this patient was to be operated on over the weekend and hence withheld the prescribed thrombo prophylaxis.

2. Availability of porters:-

The investigation has established that the availability of porters had no material effect on this patient's outcome.

The nurse has been asked to reflect on the need to read the medical notes of the patients for which he cares closely and adhere to them to the letter. He has also been advised to discuss any uncertainty with the medical team in question.

Although not actually the root cause for this patient's death, we have also taken the opportunity to relaunch and clarify to all pertinent staff, the use of thromboprophylaxis prior to surgery, particularly the time period before which it should be withheld. In addition to this, and this is an ongoing piece of work, all speciality specific thromboprophylaxis guidelines are being reviewed and I would be happy to update you on the progress of this a later date.

I trust this answers all the outstanding questions you have for this sad case but I would be more than happy to meet with you in person to clarify any other details.

Best wishes

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mowbray', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

David Mowbray
Medical Director

Cc Glen Burley – Chief Executive Wye Valley Trust.