

Regulation 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)

NOTE: This form is to be used **after** an inquest.

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- 1 The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**
Ministerial Correspondence
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU
- 2 NHS England**
NHS England, PO Box 16738, Redditch, B97 9PT
england.contactus@nhs.net
- 3 NHS Improvement**
Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG
enquiries@improvement.nhs.uk

1 CORONER

I am Andre REBELLO, Senior Coroner for the area of Liverpool and Wirral

2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On 17/01/2019 I commenced an investigation into the death of Lewis James Doyle aged 80. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 24 June 2019. The conclusion of the inquest was: An accidental death

The Medical Cause of death was

I a Organising Pneumonia

I b Traumatic injuries to feet (with distal amputations), severe coronary artery disease and metastatic carcinoma of the prostate

I c

II

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

Mr Lewis James Doyle had a past medical history of Coronary Artery Disease, Parkinson's disease, Cerebral meningioma, Adenocarcinoma of the prostate & a longstanding recurrent depressive illness (without psychosis) for which he was prescribed fluoxetine, mirtazapine and lithium. On 10th September 2018, Mr Doyle was admitted to Arrowe Park hospital following an episode of Acute Coronary Syndrome. On the 14th September 2018, a decision was made to suspend lithium medication, as the level was 1.4, which was biochemically toxic. On the 20th September 2018, the Lithium was stopped and later the same day Mr Doyle suffered a cardiac arrest. On 24th September 2018, Mr Doyle was transferred to Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital where he underwent a procedure to insert coronary artery stents and an internal cardiac defibrillator before being discharged home. On 22nd October 2018, Mr Doyle was seen by his General Practitioner for a review of medication relating to his enlarged prostate. At 12.53 on the 22nd October 2018, Mr Doyle fell in front of a train at Bebington Railway Station. Mr Doyle was

disorientated in thought and there is no evidence that he intended to self-harm. It is possible that he was experiencing a psychosis. Mr Doyle suffered head and lower limb injuries was taken to University Hospital Aintree where he underwent a bilateral foot amputation. On 30th October 2018 after a discussion between a MerseyCare psychiatrist and a University Hospital Aintree cardiologist, the decision was made to re-introduce lithium to Mr Doyle. It is found that Lithium had to be stopped when it was at a toxic level and there were no alternatives for mood stabilisation, which did not carry a risk to his cardiac health. The Lithium was reintroduced when Mr Doyle was medically stable minimising the risk of a further cardiac event. On 17th November, once stable Mr Doyle was transferred to Arrowe Park Hospital to continue his treatment on the orthopaedic ward. During his time at Arrowe Park, Mr Doyle developed a chest infection for which he was treated with antibiotics, which were escalated when his symptoms worsened, he became breathless and his oxygen requirements increased. Chest X-Rays demonstrated pulmonary oedema & furosemide was then added to clear his lungs. On 8th January 2019, it appeared there was no clinical improvement and furthermore Mr Doyle was deteriorating. The decision was made to turn off the internal cardiac defibrillator to prevent painful & inappropriate shocks. Mr Doyle passed away and his death was confirmed at 20:58 on 8th January 2019.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows: (brief summary of matters of concern)

When Mr Doyle was discharged from the Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital the GP discharge letter was sent to his GP. Mr Doyle was receiving treatment for Acute Coronary Syndrome but also mental health care for a Recurrent Depressive Illness (without Psychosis). Lithium had to be stopped not only because it was at a toxic level but also because of the effect of this and alternate medications on cardiac health. It occurred during the inquest that in similar scenarios better patient care could be delivered, if discharge letters were sent to all current medical attendants, whether in primary, secondary or tertiary care. Information with regard to suspended or stopped medication was needed by the original prescribers.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you (and/or your organisation) have the power to take such action.

7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 19 August 2019. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.

8 COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:
Mr Doyle's family
Wirral University Teaching Hospital
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership

I have also sent it to:
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital
The University Hospital Aintree
Knowsley and St Helen's NHS Foundation Trust
The Royal Liverpool University Hospital Trust

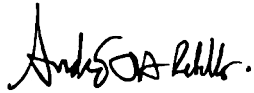
who may find it useful or of interest.

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may

send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Rebello". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Andre REBELLO
Senior Coroner for
Liverpool and Wirral
Dated: 24 June 2019