



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Nadine Dorries MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Patient Safety,  
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health

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Your Ref: 13303/RD  
Our Ref: PFD-1206650

Ms Alison Patricia Mutch  
HM Senior Coroner, Manchester South  
HM Coroner's Court  
1 Mount Tabor Street  
Stockport SK1 3AG

28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Ms Mutch

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2020 to Matt Hancock about the death of Beryl Holland. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for patient safety.

Please extend my sincere condolences to Ms Holland's family and loved ones.

It is important that we look to make improvements where we can to ensure the highest standards of quality and safety in the NHS and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

I am aware that the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has advised you in its response that a clinical guideline is available on the *Prevention and Management of Pressure Sores* (CG179<sup>1</sup>) and that this guideline provides specific recommendations to clinicians in relation to patients receiving care in emergency department settings if they have a risk factor. It is the view of NICE that this guideline provides relevant guidance.

NHS trusts are expected to take into account NICE guidelines when developing Trust level policies. Risk assessment and care planning for the prevention of pressure ulcers should be undertaken in all relevant settings within a hospital and it is therefore expected that emergency departments will have local policies in place.

To assist NHS trusts, in 2017, NHS Improvement published an emergency department patient safety checklist<sup>2</sup> that can be used to ensure skin assessments, appropriate care plans and follow up care are undertaken and recorded. The checklist is endorsed by NHS England, the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, and the Royal College of Nursing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg179>

<sup>2</sup> <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/emergency-department-ed-patient-safety-checklist/>

I am advised that the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust has adopted the Patient Safety Checklist for use in the emergency department at Stepping Hill Hospital, alongside other actions to improve processes around the identification and management of pressure ulcers. The emergency department works closely with the Tissue Viability Nurse Specialist and working together measures have been developed to improve patient safety and the quality of care. For example, through improved access to dynamic mattresses and the transfer of patients from a trolley to a bed if they are experiencing long waits and are identified to be at risk.

I hope this response is helpful.



**NADINE DORRIES**