

Our Ref: MP/WW/Worcs 20181210
Your Ref: AJC/RW/27288

10 December 2018

University Hospital
Clifford Bridge Road
Walsgrave
Coventry
CV2 2DX

A J Cox
HM Assistant Coroner
Worcestershire Coroner's Court
The Civic
St Martin's Way
Southport on Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 8UN

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Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 1 November 2018. I note that you have raised a Regulation 28 Report to prevent future deaths at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust following the inquest surrounding the death of Stephen Allan Samuel Taylor. In particular, you have requested me, as the Chief Medical Officer, to review whether there is adequate support for neurosurgical patients who also have medical co-morbidities and if not, how this situation may be best addressed.

At University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust we have an electronic referral requesting system in place whereby opinion of medical staff in different specialties can be sought. This applies to all staff in all wards. For instance, the doctors working on the neurosurgical ward have this system in place where they could request for their patients to be seen by doctors from other specialties as necessary. Furthermore, junior doctors rotate through different medical specialties during their training to gain competencies in management of chronic medical conditions.

As a Trust we have looked to support complex surgical specialties, such as Neurosurgery, Vascular Surgery and Orthopaedics with provision of specialist medical opinion, especially from Care of the Elderly physicians. However, due to a national shortage of consultants in this specialty, we have supplemented our Care of the Elderly team with Advanced Nurse Practitioners. We will be looking to increase this further so as to provide specialist medical input to surgical patients with medical co-morbidities.

Kind Regards
Yours sincerely,



Professor Meghana Pandit
Chief Medical Officer and Deputy CEO

CC: Andrew Hardy, Chief Executive Officer, UHCW

