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15th November 2018

Mrs L Hunt
Senior Coroner Birmingham and Solihull Areas
Coroner's Court
50 Newton Street
Birmingham
B4 6NE

Dear Louise

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Sufia Begum

I am writing in response to the notification of a regulation 28 regarding Sufia Begum. In considering our response, we have reviewed the investigation carried out by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, and we have used the opportunity to reflect on this incident to consider the risks of medicines interactions across our local healthcare system, particularly in the urgent care arena.

The CCG had been alerted to Mrs Begum's death through its serious incident reporting process, which requires care providers to report serious incidents in accordance with NHS England Serious Incident Reporting Framework (2015). In response to that report the CCG has contacted Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust to seek assurance that actions have taken to prevent a reoccurrence of this situation, and we continue to work with the Trust to ensure that these actions are completed.

The CCG wrote, at the end of October, to all of its contracted NHS providers to notify them of the need to avoid drug interactions and to seek assurance that this has been addressed. This was followed on 2nd November by a letter to primary care providers of walk in centres and urgent care treatment centres notifying the same.

On 14th November the CCG included the following alert in its monthly Medicines Newsletter:

BNF App – drug interactions checker

A coroner's report about a death as a result of an interaction between verapamil and clarithromycin concluded that opportunities were missed to have identified this interaction and recommended greater use of the BNF App to check for drug interactions. While GP clinical systems would be expected to highlight potentially serious interactions, prescribers should have a back-up available if prescribing without using the clinical system (e.g. home visit, clinical system failure etc). The BNF App is free to download for smartphones and tablets via this [link](#).

This newsletter is circulated to all of the CCG's general practitioners, practice nurses and practice managers.

I hope this provides satisfactory reassurance that we have acted to prevent future deaths from this medicines interaction in particular as well taking the opportunity to avoid further unknown medicine interactions. However, should you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

On behalf of the CCG I would like to express my sympathy and sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mrs Begum.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Jennings'.

Paul Jennings
Chief Executive Officer