



Avon and Wiltshire
Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust

Ms M. E. Voisin,
Senior Coroner, Area of Avon Coroner's Court,
Old Weston Road,
Flax Bourton,
Avon,
BS48 1UL

Chief Executive's Office
Bath NHS House
Newbridge Hill
Bath
BA1 3QE
Tel: 01225 362923

22 July 2019

Dear Ms Voisin,

Prevention of Future Death Response

The Trust welcomes the opportunity to respond to the issue you have raised through the Regulation 28 report Prevention of Future Deaths report, in connection with the death of Ms Natasha Abrahart. We are determined to improve the safety of our services for patients and families following this tragic death. In response to the report, the Trust has taken the following steps.

We have distributed a Red Top Alert via our Trust-wide alerting system instructing all medical personnel, all non-medical prescribers, all pharmacists and all team managers to ensure that prescribers follow the NICE Guidance in relation to the prescribing of anti-depressants (CG90). The instruction includes a requirement to adhere to the guidance and makes clear the responsibility to communicate effectively with primary care about which individual will undertake the review at seven days; and that this must be clearly documented. There is a robust auditable system which demands a response from all the teams circulated in the alert, permitting the identification of any gaps. There will be an obligation for medical leads to discuss this with all their line reports, to ensure effective communication of this alert.

In addition to the alert, this will also be raised at various fora across the Trust, ensuring that the learning from this tragic death is shared as widely and comprehensively as possible. These include:

- Medical Leads Meeting – on the agenda at the next meeting 16th July 2019
- Trust-wide Medical Advisory Group (TMAG) – September 2019
- The Learning from Experience Meeting – a meeting that shares learning from experience across the Trust – on the agenda for the next meeting 17th July 2019
- The Medicines Optimisation Group (MOG) – a Trust-wide meeting chaired by the Chief Pharmacist – on the agenda for the next meeting 23rd July 2019

Please find attached, as an appendix, the Red Top Alert circulated through our patient safety alert system.

Chair
Charlotte Hitchings

Trust Headquarters
Bath NHS House, Newbridge Hill, Bath BA1 3QE

*Acting Chief
Executive*
Simon Truelove

I hope the information provided indicates how seriously the Trust has taken the death of Ms Abrahart and how committed we are to embedding the learning, improving patient safety and reducing avoidable harm. If there is any further information you require we would be happy to provide this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Truelove', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Truelove
Acting Chief Executive
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Red Top Alert

NICE Guideline: Depression in Adults

Reason for issuing this RED Top Alert:

The Trust has received a 'Prevention of Future Deaths Report' following a recent inquest which has also been distributed nationally.

The direction from the Coroner requires prescribers who are initiating antidepressant medication to follow the NICE Guidelines with respect to antidepressant prescribing (CG90).

The guidelines state in section 1.5.2.7 (CG90):

'A person with depression started on antidepressants who is considered to present an increased risk of suicide or is younger than 30 years (because of the potential increased prevalence of suicidal thoughts in the early stages of antidepressant treatment for this group), should normally be seen after one week and frequently thereafter as appropriate until the risk is no longer considered clinically important.'

The review at seven days does not necessarily need to be undertaken by the prescriber initiating the treatment.

There must be clear communication between the prescriber and the reviewing practitioner (whether that be in primary or secondary care), about who will undertake the review.

This plan and appointment date must be clearly documented in the electronic patient care record (RIO).

If you require further advice, please contact the Medical Directorate.



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Date of issue

6th June 2019
version 1.0
Alert NHS/PSA/*****

Issued by:

Medical Directorate

NICE Guidelines: Depression in Adults - recognition and management

Regulation 28 Report from
HM Coroner—to Prevent Future Deaths

Issued to:

All Medical Staff
Non-Medical Prescribers
Pharmacists

Sign up to

SAFETY

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