

21 December 2020

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

3 Hardman Street
Manchester M3 3AW

Private: Addressee Only
Ms Caroline Topping

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Dear Ms Topping

Regulation 28 Report re: Death of Mr Peter James Michael Unsworth

Thank you for the 'Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths', addressed to [REDACTED] our Chair of Council. I am responding as the Officer responsible for the Council's fitness to practise work.

I am grateful to you for bringing this matter to my attention. We consider that information sharing is an essential part of the provision of safe and effective care. Keeping patients' medical records up to date is an important part of patient care, informing what happens in the future. It also helps doctors to explain and justify their decisions and actions (see paragraph 50 in our [Decision making and consent guidance](#)). Patients may be put at risk if those who provide their care do not have access to relevant, accurate and up to date information about them.

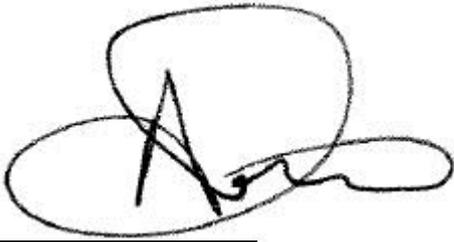
We provide more information about medical records in our core piece of guidance, [Good medical practice](#). We state that the documents doctors make (including clinical records) to formally record their work must be clear, accurate and legible. Records should be made at the same time as the events the doctor is recording or as soon as possible afterwards (see paragraph 19 [Good medical practice](#)).

We also give a clear indication of what should be included in clinical records. This includes, the drugs prescribed or other investigation or treatment, who is making the record and when, the decisions made and actions agreed, who is making the decisions and agreeing the actions, relevant clinical findings and the information given to patients, (see paragraph 21 of [Good medical practice](#)).

We will consider the information you have provided and determine whether any further action is required either through our Outreach or fitness to practise process.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a central vertical stroke.


General Counsel
Director, Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Telephone: 

Email: 