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STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Jason Wells
HM Assistant Coroner for Greater Manchester South
1 Mount Tabor Street
Stockport
SK1 3AG

29th June 2021

Dear Mr J Wells

Re: Mary Anne Mellor (Deceased). Response to Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths to Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Thank you for your letter dated 12 May 2021 with the enclosed Prevention of Future Death Report. I am sorry that you have had cause to issue the Regulation 28 due to the evidence heard at the inquest. We have reviewed the points raised in your letter and set out our response below.

Your concerns were set out in the Regulation 28 Report as follows:

Following a thorough investigation, LHCH recognised that the leak was not identified on the CT scans in 2019 and 2020 because 3D reconstruction was not used when they were reported. LHCH have amended their reporting protocol for aortic stent surveillance accordingly and requested that Medica, who continue to report such scans for LHCH, do the same. However, as of date of the inquest, LHCH had received no response from Medica and could not assure me that Medica are using 3D reconstruction to report this type of scan and/or intend to do so in future.

I am therefore concerned that other patients at LHCH with aortic stents remain at risk of leaks not being identified, potentially depriving them of elective surgical management before life threatening complications occur.

Response:

Learning

LHCH has reviewed the relevant patients and for the identified patients it is established that there have been no further incidents of this nature.

In order to ensure this event does not reoccur, we have written a formal policy which has been approved and circulated to all relevant clinicians. In it, it states that all images of this nature must be reported using multi planar view.

Auditing of this policy is scheduled to take place on an annual basis. The results of which will be presented to the Divisional Governance meetings for review and action as necessary.

Following the Trust's investigation into this matter, the Trust set up a new clinic which started on the 1st March 2021 called the Liverpool Cardiovascular Surgery Clinic, into which complex patients such as Mrs Mellor will be seen. This will ensure a joined-up approach from senior consultant review by vascular and cardiac surgeons and, where necessary, referral back to LUHFT for imaging surveillance.

At the inquest, evidence was heard that the Trust was waiting for a response from Medica for them to confirm that their scans are reported using 3D reconstruction. However, this has been investigated further and only the individual clinician had been contacted and not the leadership/executive team at Medica. We therefore wish to apologise for the confusion in relation to the Trusts contact with Medica. As a learning point from this, the Trust has now included contact with external partners prior to investigation as part of the investigation process.

Outsourced reporting

Following the meeting held with Medica on the 19th May 2021, it was agreed that LHCH will perform and report in house for this type of image as we are able to store images that demonstrate MPR has been used and they will no longer be outsourced to Medica.

We are cognisant that Medica have responded separately so would refer you to their previously submitted document.

I trust this response provides you with sufficient reassurance to you and Mary Mellor's family that the Trust have done everything it it's power to ensure lessons have been learnt following this sad incident.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information in relation to our response.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive