

18 March 2019

James Bennett  
HM Senior Coroner  
The Coroner's Court  
50 Newton Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6NE

Via email: [REDACTED]

Our ref: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Bennett,

I write in response to your report, dated Friday 31 January 2020, regarding the death of Mrs Renee Simone Brooks.

We have considered the circumstances surrounding Mrs Brooks's death, and your that there is an absence of UK guidance relating to indications for safe practice for lipoedema-related liposuction.

In August 2017 NICE published interventional procedures (IP) guidance on liposuction for chronic lymphoedema (IPG588), which currently recommends the following:

*1.1 Current evidence on the safety and efficacy of liposuction for chronic lymphoedema is adequate to support the use of this procedure provided that standard arrangements are in place for clinical governance, consent and audit.*

*1.2 Patient selection should only be done by a multidisciplinary team as part of a lymphoedema service.*

However, we have not published guidance on the use of liposuction for the specific condition of chronic lipoedema.

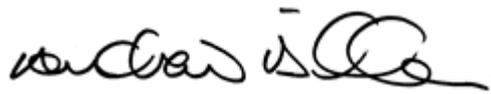
NICE IP guidance makes recommendations on the conditions for the safe use of a procedure in the NHS, based on the available evidence relating to safety and efficacy. The recommendations specify the type of arrangements that should be made for consent, audit and clinical governance.

In view of the safety concerns raised by this case, the IP team will consider whether:

- the current recommendations in relation to the safety and efficacy of liposuction for chronic lymphoedema should be updated to allow the guidance to provide additional explicit detail on safety concerns. In the meantime, our website ([www.nice.org.uk/ipg588](http://www.nice.org.uk/ipg588)) now explains that *"We are considering whether we need to update this guidance in response to safety concerns"* and the webpage will be updated with the outcome of these considerations, in due course.
- new IP guidance should be produced specifically relating to the use of liposuction in the treatment of chronic lipoedema.

As part of any future guidance development, the IP team would consult with specialist societies such as the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (BAAPS) and the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew [unclear]', written over a vertical line.

Sir [REDACTED]  
Chief Executive