



Ambulance Service Headquarters

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Your Ref: 01062-2019
Our Ref: COR 3383

Mr S McGovern
Warwickshire Justice Centre
Newbold Terrace
Leamington Spa
CV32 4EL

21 February 2020

Dear Mr McGovern

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths - Ashley Walker (Deceased)

Thank you for your email dated 4 February 2020 attaching your Regulation 28 Report.

Please see our response to your concerns below:

Concern 1

It is apparent that a communication error confused the ingestion of sodium nitrate with a spillage of sodium nitrate.

Response

Following this incident we have instructed all of our staff to remove the WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) App from all work mobile phones and tablets. The App will now only be used following training by Tactical Incident Commanders (TICs), the National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer (NILO) and team leaders in our Hazardous Area Response Team (HART). This is to ensure the risk of harm to both our patients and staff is reduced and to mitigate confusion at scene, as crews on scene will only be able to access advice from trained officers.

As a Trust we have also produced further guidance in relation to Individual Chemical Exposure (ICE) incidents which highlight the clinical management differences between individual ingestion and chemical spills for all of our Officers.

Concern 2

Sodium nitrate toxicity is a recognised method of suicide and I heard evidence from a WMAS staff member that there is an effective antidote (methylene blue) but this was not available on the ambulance.

Response

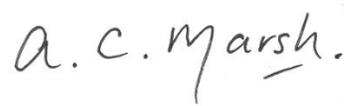
We are currently reviewing whether it would be feasible for our Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) paramedics to carry and administer methylene blue along with other medications to clinically manage cases where there has been chemical ingestion of sodium nitrate. The Lead Paramedic for the Trust has raised this nationally with the National Ambulance Resilience Unit (NARU) clinical sub-group, with a view to making this standard practice nationally.

Can I please take this opportunity to pass on my sincere condolences to the family of Mr Walker.

I hope this response provides you with the appropriate level of assurance that as a Trust we have dealt with the concerns highlighted within your report.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate contact me.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "a.c. marsh".

Professor Anthony C. Marsh
Chief Executive Officer