

[REDACTED]  
National Medical Director  
Skipton House  
80 London Road  
SE1 6LH

Dr R Brittain  
Assistant Coroner for  
Inner London North  
Poplar Corners Court  
127 Poplar High Street  
London  
E14 0AE

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Assistant Coroner Brittain,

**Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – [REDACTED] - 13 June 2019**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report dated 6 March 2020 concerning the death of [REDACTED] on 13 June 2019. Firstly, I would like to express my deep condolences to [REDACTED].

The regulation 28 report concludes [REDACTED] death was a result of cocaine use which resulted in a posterior stroke.

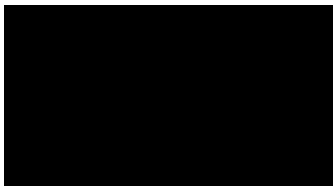
Following the inquest, you raised concerns in your Regulation 28 Report to NHS England regarding variable geographic and timing access to thrombectomy services.

NHS England is rolling out access to thrombectomy nationally via specialised neuroscience centres over a 5-year period. This commenced in April 2017 with the mapping of services against a specification. Neuroscience centres were asked to develop implementation plans that include being able to move to a fully staffed 24/7 service over 5 years. It is recognised that there is currently an insufficient number of suitably qualified medical teams to support the expansion of thrombectomy services and this is a rate-limiting factor in terms of being able to provide comprehensive geographical coverage. NHS England is developing a bespoke training programme endorsed by the General Medical Council and Health Education England to address this shortfall in practitioners. This is due for roll out imminently. There are currently 22 providers of thrombectomy services across the country, with 6 planning to provide 24/7 access to thrombectomy and a further total of 13 who plan to provide a 7 day a week service. Regional NHS England teams are working with their service providers to develop innovative solutions that include the development of joint rotas so that patients have 24/7 access to thrombectomy within a region. As the additional trained workforce becomes available the number of centres and the number of centres able to provide 24/7 care will increase.

Thrombectomy significantly reduces rates and levels of disability from stroke. It is estimated that up to 10% of people who suffer a stroke will be medically eligible for thrombectomy following a stroke which equates to approximately 8,000 patients per year nationally. The target in the NHS Long Term Plan is that all eligible patients will have access to thrombectomy by April 2022.

Thank you for bringing this important patient safety issue to my attention and please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,



**National Medical Director  
NHS England and NHS Improvement**

