

17 February 2023

Caroline Topping
HM Assistant Coroner
HM Coroner's Court
Station Approach
Woking
Surrey
GU22 7AP

Dear Ms Topping,

I write in response to your regulation 28 report of 30 December 2022 regarding the very sad death of Mr Gavin Peter Pedleham. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Mr Pedleham's family.

Having reviewed your report, and the circumstances surrounding Mr Pedleham's death, we believe our guideline on [controlled drugs: safe use and management](#) [NG46] is directly relevant to this case. The scope of this guideline covers all settings, including people's own homes, where publicly funded health and social care is delivered. It was developed in line with UK controlled drugs legislation and regulations.

In the guideline we recommend that health professionals should provide advice and information to people who are prescribed controlled drugs about how to store controlled drugs safely. This includes discussing storage options, taking into account the person's preference for a lockable or non-lockable storage box; whether the controlled drugs will be accessible to people who should and should not have access to them; whether the storage method could increase the risk of controlled drug-related incidents, including patient safety incidents (recommendation 1.8.2).

Furthermore, we recommend documenting and giving information to the person taking the controlled drug or the carer administering it, including: that it is to be used only by the person it is prescribed for (recommendation 1.5.9).

Our [information for the public](#) explains the advice set out in NG46 and advises that 'You must not let anyone else take your medicine. Your healthcare professional should explain this clearly.'

We therefore believe that there is sufficient national guidance on the use of controlled drugs in a community setting.

Please do let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief executive