



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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[gov.uk/mhra](https://www.gov.uk/mhra)

Catherine McKenna
HM Coroner for Coroner area of Manchester North

12th April 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms McKenna,

**Subject: Report to Prevent Future deaths
John Abrahams (Jack) (Deceased)**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) monitors the safety of all medicines to ensure that up-to-date information on the benefits and risks of a medicine is available for healthcare professionals and patients.

The MHRA obtains independent advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). [The Isotretinoin Expert Working Group](#) (IEWG) was convened by the CHM to evaluate the latest data on risk of psychiatric adverse reactions and sexual dysfunction suspected to be associated with the use of isotretinoin and to consider whether regulatory action is required to minimise risks or raise awareness of the risks.

The IEWG considered oral and written evidence over 2020 and 2021. The review included a public call for information which resulted in 659 responses with views from patients, families, and other stakeholders and more than 7 hours of direct presentations, all of which were considered carefully by the IEWG in making their recommendations. The findings and recommendations of the IEWG were presented in a report to the CHM at the end of 2021. Patients and other stakeholders were invited to attend part of this meeting of the CHM to hear the presentation and discussion of the data.


The CHM further advised in August 2022 that, in order to ensure the safe and effective introduction of the recommendations, an Implementation Working Group should be established with representation from the wider healthcare system in addition to relevant

healthcare professionals. This was due to concerns raised around the logistical implementation of the recommendations which they felt may delay treatment for those that need it.

The Implementation Working Group has had two meetings in March 2023 and is making good progress with a further meeting planned in mid May 2023.

The report of this review will be published shortly. We will advise you of the publication date when it is confirmed.

Yours sincerely,


Chief Executive
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
