

Ms. Emma Brown

Birmingham & Solihull Coroner's Court
Steelhouse Lane
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National Medical Director

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
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16 May 2023

Dear Ms Brown

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Jai Singh who died on 28 January 2022.

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths (hereafter "Report") dated 15 March 2023 concerning the death of Jai Singh on 28 January 2022. In advance of responding to the specific concerns raised in your Report, I would like to express my deep condolences to Mr Singh's family and loved ones. NHS England is keen to assure the family and the Coroner that the concerns raised about Mr Singh's care have been listened to and reflected upon.

NHS England is the responsible organisation for the commissioning of healthcare into prisons, which is devolved to regional teams. Commissioning healthcare in prisons is done on a principle of equivalence, which has been defined by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and broadly states the aim is to ensure people detained in prisons in England, are offered provision of and access to appropriate services and treatment, considered to be at least consistent in range and quality, with that available in the wider community.

NHS England is unable to comment on the matters of concern highlighted that relate to booking of interpreters, communication, and engagement with Mr Singh's family as these are matters for response locally. I have considered the concern raised in your report regarding the absence of any ongoing risk assessment documentation for patients with mental illness, within the SystemOne records at HMP Birmingham and my response is as follows:

Matters of Concern:

The absence of ongoing risk assessment documentation for patients with mental illness within SystemOne records at HMP Birmingham.

At first reception into prison, a healthcare professional (or trained healthcare assistant under the supervision of a registered nurse) carries out a health assessment of patients.

This first night screening takes place in line with guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and all patients are asked at this assessment

if they have been convicted of murder, manslaughter, or another offence with a long sentence. If a patient answers yes to this question, there is a specific referral made to the Mental Health team for assessment, and this is recorded in a Health and Justice Information System (HJIS), SystmOne template.

There is also a comprehensive section in this first night screening template relating to mental health which asks questions around the patient's mental health history. This includes whether they have ever seen a healthcare professional or used a service for a mental health problem such as psychiatry, general practice, psychology, counselling, community mental health services, alcohol or substance misuse or learning disability.

If the patient answers yes to this question, they will be asked for further detail and a referral made to the Mental Health team, again being recorded using the template available on SystmOne.

There are several opportunities during the first night screening where an Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) can be requested or opened if concerns are identified.

Within 7-days of the first health assessment, a further second-stage health assessment for every person in prison is conducted. Included in this is a correctional mental health screen (CMHS), also recorded on the available SystmOne template and based on the results of this, a further mental health assessment should either be conducted, or a referral made for this and again recorded on SystmOne.

In terms of training in support of the use of SystmOne, North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) is the implementation and training partner for The Phoenix Partnership (TPP) SystmOne and works across the Health and Justice environment.

In 2020, at the refresh of the Secure Environment Assessment Toolkit (SEAT) suite of clinical templates, each site received a group overview of how to complete the clinical template suite. This training was delivered by a Regional Project Manager and training expert and documentation around attendees to these sessions was maintained.

The documentation including technical guidance around the SEAT implementation, and how to complete the templates, is stored on the NECS training platform. All users have access to this platform, and it includes an overview to completing national clinical templates.

There is also provision to request further one-to-one training from NECS, which can be delivered face-to-face or via Microsoft Teams.

The fact the mental health multi-disciplinary team (MDT) does not include a psychiatrist.

MDT members can include a variety of practitioners, specialists and care-givers from a wide range of different services, including Psychiatrists. NHS England would not however prescribe to have a psychiatrist included in every MDT.

The decision about who is best placed to sit in specific MDT meetings, is led by the history and presentation of the patient, and on a case-by-case basis which is made locally.

The absence of ongoing risk assessment documentation for patients with mental illness within the SystmOne records at HMP Birmingham.

Risk assessments are carried out in line with relevant National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance for the mental health assessment of people in prison. There are templates available within SystmOne for this purpose. Any concern relating to record keeping within SystmOne, is for Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust (BSMHT) to respond to locally as a separate matter.

I do hope this reassures you that in terms of mental health assessment, information and prompts available to staff, there are templates available on SystmOne which provide this and are used in prison healthcare and there is training in place to support this. If there is evidence that current information relating to the templates is lacking, we would need to understand more about specifically what is needed, and a risk assessment could then be deployed nationally to review and update.

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

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

National Medical Director