

BNF Publicationsbnf.org

**Mr R. Guy Davies
H.M. Coroner's Office
Pydar House
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Cornwall
TR1 2AY**

06th July 2023

Dear Mr Davies,

We write in response to your Regulation 28 report dated 16th May 2023 which was sent to us as the Publisher of the British National Formulary (BNF). We are sorry to hear the sad circumstances of this case regarding Mr John Alfred Roberts.

In light of the findings from your report, we have carried out an assessment of the information currently contained in the BNF relating to prednisolone and the corticosteroids drug class, and reviewed relevant literature regarding the risk of bowel perforation in patients with diverticular disease. The result of that research is that, within the "Cautions" section of all corticosteroid monographs in the BNF, we will add "diverticular disease (increased risk of diverticular perforation)". This will be actioned for the August online monthly update. The "Cautions" section of BNF content is used to highlight specific clinical situations in which the use of a drug for a given patient is known to present a risk of harm that is greater than usual and therefore a healthcare professional should be aware so that they can weigh the risks and benefits for their individual patient.

Side-effects listed within BNF Publications are those for the general population. Where a side-effect is reported in a specific population type (e.g. those with diverticular disease), this would be included within the Cautions section, as we have set out above.

We trust that this addresses this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Content Director (BNF Publications)

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