

[REDACTED]
4 December November 2023

Mr James Thompson
HM Assistant Coroner for Newcastle Upon Tyne and North Tyneside

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Dear Sir

Inquest touching upon the death of Brian David Moreton

We write further to this inquest, in relation to the Regulation 28 report which was issued to North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, as we are aware that the deadline for North Cumbria responding is this week and some of the concerns you raised were around communication from North Cumbria to the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Whilst we appreciate that the Regulation 28 report is not directed to our client, we wanted to take the opportunity to clarify Newcastle's position around communication, which will hopefully assist with addressing some of the concerns you had. As you heard at the inquest, when a patient, such as Mr Moreton is admitted to North Cumbria under the Gastroenterology team, the Gastroenterology team are deemed to be the leading clinicians, irrespective of any other ongoing treatment or underlying conditions. As in this case, there may be circumstances where a patient, such as Mr Moreton, are already in the care of an Oncology team, prior to and whilst receiving inpatient Gastroenterology treatment. In this scenario, the Acute Oncology Nurses (employed by North Cumbria) and Oncology Advanced Care Practitioner (employed by Newcastle) may visit existing oncology patients whilst on the Gastroenterology ward to provide them with support and update the Oncology Team about their admission. If any direct advice is required by Gastroenterology specialists from the oncology team around matters such as, life expectancy when considering a patient's prospects of surviving gastroenterology surgery, then the process is for the relevant treating doctor to contact the Consultant Oncologist directly, and not to rely solely on oncology nursing input. This applies to any area of medicine where a cancer patient is admitted.

If specialist advice is required in relation to the management of colitis and any potential complications arising from this, even when the colitis is as a result of immunotherapy for the treatment of a melanoma, advice would be sought by the treating Gastroenterology team at North Cumbria, from the Gastroenterology team at Newcastle (as the tertiary centre), as the Gastroenterologists are the specialists dealing with colitis and any complications arising from this. This is why, following Mr Moreton's death, North Cumbria now take part in a regular Inflammatory Bowel Disease MDT at Newcastle, which as you heard at the inquest, has improved communication between the two Trusts and enables clinicians to more freely pick up the phone and seek advice.

We trust that the above clarifies the position and provides you with some reassurance about the communications processes between the Trusts, but should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your sincerely

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