

22 January 2024

Nicholas H Lane
HM Assistant Coroner for Worcestershire
Worcestershire Coroner's Court
Martins Way
Stourport-on-Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 8UN

Dear Mr Lane,

I write in response to your regulation 28 report of 27 October 2023 regarding the very sad death of Andrew Nichols. I would like to express my sincere condolences to his family.

Having reviewed the report, we agree that our guideline on [venous thromboembolism in over 16s](#) [NG89] is relevant to this case.

Regarding your concern that there is a lack of clarity in the guideline regarding continuation or review of anticoagulation therapy on discharge to community-based hospital settings, we note that section 1.2 of the guideline covers [giving information and planning for discharge](#).

We recommend that as part of the discharge plan patients and their family or carers should be given written and verbal information on the signs and symptoms of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism and the importance of seeking help if DVT, pulmonary embolism or other adverse events are suspected. Further information should be provided on the importance of using VTE prophylaxis correctly (including the correct administration and disposal of pharmacological prophylaxis) and to ensure that people are able to use this treatment effectively, or have arrangements made for someone to be available who will be able to help them.

We recommend that the person's GP should be notified if the person has been discharged with pharmacological and/or mechanical VTE prophylaxis to be used at home, however we recognise that there is no specific reference to managing the continuation of anticoagulation therapy in community settings.

To address this we propose to review the guideline to see if it can be updated to cover the issue of continuing VTE prophylaxis on discharge so that inpatient anticoagulation prescriptions for VTE prophylaxis are converted to ongoing anticoagulation where required, ensuring that the intention cannot be misinterpreted.

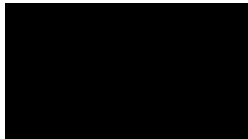
To further support the implementation of this guideline NICE's implementation support team will consider the delivery of support on VTE risk assessments and discharge planning with a specific focus on anticoagulation.

Regarding your suggestion that consideration could be given to how NICE shares guidance documents and local accountability for keeping up to date with new guidance, I have asked our external communications team to reflect on the issues raised by the report, to incorporate any lessons into NICE's approach to future guidance dissemination.

Of course, there is a responsibility on local commissioners and providers for having systems and processes in place to reviewing NICE guidance at publication and considering relevance to their setting. We encourage health and social care professionals to register to receive our newsletters and alerts to keep abreast of consultations, updates and the publication of new guidance.

Please do let me know if you require any further information and, again, I offer my sincerest condolences to Mr Nichols' family.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive