

10 January 2024

Peter Merchant
HM Assistant Coroner
West Yorkshire Western Coroner Area

Dear Mr Merchant,

Re: Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths Report (Maxwell Grant Frame)

I write in response to your regulation 28 report dated 14 November 2023 regarding the sad death of Maxwell Grant Frame. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Maxwell's family.

We have reflected on the circumstances surrounding Maxwell's death and the concern raised in your report, namely the absence of a national policy on the placement of central venous catheters (CVC).

Senior clinical advisors within the patient safety team here at the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) reviewed this report carefully and took advice from a consultant in anaesthesia and intensive care medicine.

There are already [National safety standards for invasive procedures \(NatSSIPs\)](#) which should be used to develop local standards. Based on NatSSIPs, the Intensive Care Society (ICS) have published an agreed national [CVC Insertion Safety Checklist 2023](#).

Additionally, the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) published guidance in 2016 that makes recommendations on [safe vascular access](#), including on policies, documentation, training, supervision, the use of ultrasound and of post insertion checks to improve the recognition of catheter misplacement.

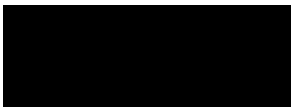
NICE published guidance recommending [the use of ultrasound locating devices for placing central venous catheters \[TA49\]](#) in 2002. This guidance did not make any recommendation for placement of CVCs into the subclavian vein as there was a lack of specific evidence for subclavian placement at the time of publication. Since this guidance was published, ultrasound use for placement of central lines has become applicable to all sites.

In conclusion, the use of ultrasound in the placement of central lines is standard practice and has already been recommended in NICE guidance as well as other nationally recognised publications.

I was saddened to read of the circumstances surrounding Maxwell's death. However, on this occasion I do not consider that further NICE guidance in this area would add to existing national recommendations from relevant professional bodies and standard requirements, prevent the failure to use ultrasound or to undertake recommended checks in line placement.

Please do let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive