



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*Andrew Stephenson MP
Minister of State*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

Ms Sonia Hayes,
HM Area Coroner for Essex,
Ground floor
Seax House
Essex County Council
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
CM1 1LX

19th February 2024

Dear Ms Hayes,

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 2023 about the death of William Brian Kin Gray. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for education and training of the NHS workforce.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of William Gray's death and I offer my sincere condolences to the family and loved ones. The circumstances your report describes are very concerning and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

Employers in the health system are responsible for ensuring that their staff are trained to the required standards to deliver appropriate treatment for patients and for ensuring that staff have appropriate time to undertake continuous professional development. Health Education England (now part of NHS England) published The National Capabilities Framework for Professionals who care for Children and Young People with Asthma with a range of training programmes for people to use.

The Framework is aimed at anybody who may encounter a child or young person with asthma, including healthcare professionals. As you note, it sets out a range of capabilities, which can be achieved for most of the tiers through structured education programmes. Individuals working at tiers 4 and 5 may choose to complete a portfolio of evidence instead. Several national courses have been designed and accredited to meet the capabilities for tiers 1 to 4.

In general terms, the standard of training for health care professionals is the responsibility of the health care independent statutory regulatory bodies who set the outcome standards expected at undergraduate level and approve courses and Higher Education Institutions to write and teach the curricula content that enables their students to meet the regulators outcome standards. The Health and Care Professions Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council are the regulators for paramedics and nurses respectively.

Whilst not all curricula may necessarily highlight a specific condition, they all nevertheless emphasise the skills and approaches a Health Care Practitioner must develop in order to ensure accurate and timely diagnoses and treatment plans for their patients, including for asthma.

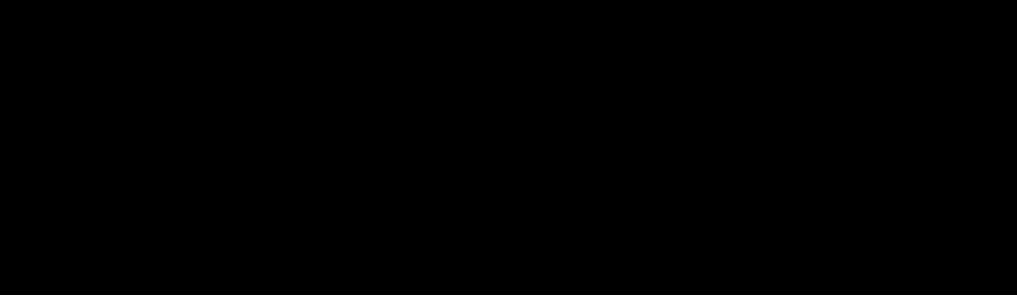
UK medical schools determine the content of their own curricula. The delivery of these undergraduate curricula have to meet the standards set by the General Medical Council (GMC), who then monitor and check to make sure that these standards are maintained. The standards require the curriculum to be formed in a way that allows all medical students to meet the GMC's Outcomes for Graduates by the time they complete their medical degree, which describe knowledge, skills and behaviour they have to show as newly registered doctors.

The curricula for postgraduate specialty training is set by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges for foundation training, and by individual Royal Colleges and faculties for specialty training. The GMC approves curricula and assessment systems for each training programme. Curricula emphasise the skills and approaches that a doctor must develop in order to ensure accurate and timely diagnoses and treatment plans for their patients.

Employers in the health system are responsible for ensuring that their staff are trained to the required standards to deliver appropriate treatment for patients.

I hope this response is helpful. Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Kind regards,



**THE RT HON ANDREW STEPHENSON CBE MP
MINISTER OF STATE**