

[REDACTED]

Date: 5 February 2024

Caroline Jones  
Assistant Coroner  
Coroner's Office  
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Coroner's Service  
Lawrence Court  
Princes Street  
Huntingdon  
PE29 3PA

Response to be sent via email

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Jones

**Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Gregor Patrick Edward Lynn**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 concerning the death of Gregor Patrick Edward Lynn who died on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Firstly, we would like to express our sincere condolences to the family. We have taken this matter extremely seriously.

The Regulation 28 Report concludes that Mr Lynn's death resulted from disseminated metastatic melanoma. Following the inquest you raised concerns in your Regulation 28 Report that patients who have lesions excised privately do not always have the histological analysis which would be provided on the NHS as standard practice in primary care.

Unfortunately, NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board has no influence over the pricing structure, or the optionality of histology, offered by private providers that deliver non-NHS funded treatment within our geographical area.

However, to ensure that we do all we can to learn from Mr Lynn's death and improve care for future patients we have used the information you provided to consider other related safety aspects.

We understand from the Prevention of Future Death Notice that the lesion when initially reviewed in 2019 was considered benign, so we have reviewed both our current referral policies for benign skin lesions and our previous version that was in place at the time.

Our current benign skin lesion policy states that whenever there is diagnostic uncertainty or there is suspicion of malignancy the benign skin policy should not be used as the patient should be referred onto the relevant NHS provider.

As a result of receiving your Regulation 28 Notice we are taking the following actions:

- Signposting all GPs working for the NHS within NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System to guidance on detection of skin cancers.
- Reminding all the GPs working for the NHS within NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System that for any skin lesions where there is diagnostic uncertainty, or if there are concerns of malignancy, appropriate onward referral should occur and the benign skin policy should not be used.
- Reminding all services that we commission in primary care that when any skin lesions are excised in primary care they should be sent routinely for histology.

Thank you for bringing this important patient safety issue to our attention. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]  
MA FRCP MRCGP FFPH DTM&H  
**Chief Medical Officer**