

26 September 2024

Mrs Samantha Marsh
c/o Taunton Coroners Court

Trust Management Office
Musgrove Park Hospital
Barton House South
Parkfield Drive
Taunton
TA1 5DA

Sent via email to
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Marsh

REGULATION 28 REPORT – PREVENTION OF FUTURE DEATHS – Michelle Moore

I am writing in response to your correspondence dated 26 June 2024 regarding the regulation 28 of the Coroner's (investigations) Regulations 2013 following the inquest regarding the death of Michelle Moore which concluded on 25 June 2024.

We have set out the matters of concern as raised in the report and our response to them.

MATTERS OF CONCERN

1. A lack of understanding and appreciation of the menopause and the effect this hormonal change and/or imbalance may have on women.
2. A lack of understanding and appreciation of a potential link between menopause and a woman experiencing mental health decline

As the Coroner has respectively acknowledged there is no national guidance on the potential link between menopause and mental health decline. Within the Trust we have taken steps to address the concerns that were raised and to build on work that was already underway across both our Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Service Group and the wider organisation.

Clinicians in psychiatric services can access the online training offered by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and this was referred to at the inquest by our consultant witness who has undertaken the training. This resource is available to all our psychiatry colleagues and will be included in the guide that is being prepared, please see below.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (SFT) is responsible for the provision of care within 16 GP practices across Somerset. Our Director for Primary Care, who is also a GP and menopause specialist, has been leading training on the menopause for both GP's and clinicians in mental health since the beginning of the year. This has enabled us to deliver bespoke training for colleagues and there is more arranged specifically for the Learning Disability team and Mental Health, as well as physical health colleagues. To support the integration with other GP practices outside of the Trust our Director for Primary Care works closely with our Medical Director of Integrated and Primary Care to determine if we can offer training/sharing of information more



widely. For patients where Mental Health colleagues are concerned, there is the opportunity to contact practices directly and liaise with the menopause specialist in that practice around menopause management or to contact the NHS Somerset Menopause service.

Within the Mental Health and Learning Disability Service Group a Task and Finish group has been established to look further at this concern. It is a multi-disciplinary group and has been meeting for the last few months to determine how best we can share information with colleagues. The initial plan is to share with colleagues' guidance on considering menopause/perimenopause when assessing this patient group. Key themes to consider will be:

1. Considering perimenopause and menopause as part of assessment – remember to ask the question, and we are establishing if there is potential to put a prompt in Dialog+
2. Adequate knowledge of both physical and non-physical signs of menopause and perimenopause. It is not expected that mental health clinicians will make the primary diagnosis, but it should be on the list of considerations for patients who meet these criteria, with a clear onward referral to their GP if required.
3. Consideration of what Mental Health and menopausal symptoms might look like. Awareness of potential for overshadowing, need to establish a proper history from the patient. This is supported by the training offered by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and internal training.
4. Screening and signposting to other services and websites where help is available

These points are relevant to both inpatient and community services, and the guidance will be shared within the coming weeks.

In addition, our Director of Primary Care is involved in the Newson Health Menopause Clinic and is exploring more widely through that resource any other national resources how we can use it to support the development of understanding and training.

I hope that the above information has been helpful. Can I also take this opportunity to express my condolences to the family for their loss of Ms Moore.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Your sincerely



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust