



Ringmead Medical Group

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1st July 2024

Dear Sir

I write to you regarding 'Regulation 28 report to prevent future death' that was issued following the inquest after the unfortunate death of Paula Elsley.

I apologise profusely for the delay in sending my reply as we (in the practice) were not sure about the nature of reply that was required.

Following the inquest we (all the partners) discussed in detail about the concerns expressed during the inquest. We discussed about easy visibility of the patient's smoking status which would be very useful during consultation. We considered the possibility of making the smoking status visible immediately when the patient's notes were opened but due to IT issues concerning more than 42000 patients that was thought not to be feasible but is easily visible when looking at care history. The issues were discussed in detail in partner's meeting and subsequent clinical meeting which is usually attended by all clinicians. We discussed about the need for checking and documenting smoking status and went through details regarding how to find it in the patient's notes easily (care history page).

The second issue of concern was having a low threshold for conducting a Chest X ray in patients presenting with an ongoing cough or respiratory symptoms. Again, this was discussed in detail in the clinical meetings, guidelines issued by NICE was stressed upon. It is difficult to have a written guideline in the practice about when to request a chest Xray as one needs to assess the patient clinically, but we have stressed that persistent respiratory symptoms, and multiple courses of antibiotics (more than twice) especially in a smoker should prompt the need to carry out a chest X-ray. The clinical meeting is also attended by the Allied health professionals who are regularly involved with seeing patients with respiratory symptoms. We can definitely say that our Chest X ray requests have definitely: delete as repetition gone up which has also been helped by the Hospital Radiology being available over

weekends. This information has also been circulated to Locum GPs as well.

Hopefully the above measures will help us to reduce future preventable deaths in the practice.

With regards

[REDACTED]
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