Royal College of Nursing
20 Cavendish Square
London
W1G 0RN

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Chief Nursing Officer

███████████████████

27 September 2024

Ms Krestina Hayes
HM Assistant Coroner
The Coroner's Court
Station Approach
Surrey
BS48 1UL

By email only to: ██████████████████████████

Dear Ms Hayes

<u>Prevention of Future Deaths Report – Gillian Patricia STOKES</u>

We respond to your Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) Report dated 8 August 2024 following the sad death of Mrs Gillian Stokes. We would like to offer our condolences to the family of Mrs Stokes.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the largest nursing union and professional body, we support over half a million nurses, midwives, nursing support workers and students working together to advance our profession. The RCN is not a regulator and therefore does not comment on individual cases. We support the coroners concerns regarding lack of guidance and pathways for radiation induced sarcoma and individuals with implants. We support the concern regarding an extension to the surveillance period.

The RCN is unable to comment on the system in place for follow-up appointments at Ashford Hospital. However, we can say that a clear process should be in place for organisation of follow-up appointments. The experience of our members would indicate that there is on occasion a lack of administrative support for nurses undertaking specialist or advanced roles, and whilst we do not know if this was the case at this hospital, it is vital that there are the appropriate staff with the requisite knowledge and skills supported by systems and processes to enable timely follow up and progression of clinical recommendations.
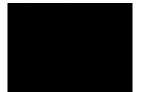
We note that you have sought advice from the Royal Marsden Hospital. We consider that they will have the appropriate expertise to be able to assist you further.

Yours sincerely

Chief Nursing Officer