



# Department of Health & Social Care

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for  
Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Victoria Davies  
Area Coroner  
Cheshire's Coroner's Service  
Museum Street  
Warrington  
Cheshire WA1 1JX

By email: [REDACTED]

22 July 2024

Dear Victoria,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths dated 23 April 2024 about the death of Nuliyati Businje, and I'd like to thank you for agreeing an extension. I am replying as the newly appointed Minister with responsibility for mental health and patient safety.

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

Your report raises concerns over the assessment of the risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) amongst psychiatric inpatients and the guidance on this provided by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

It is essential that mental health settings meet inpatients' physical as well as mental healthcare needs either through their own appropriately qualified and experienced staff or in partnership with other providers. This requires mental health inpatient staff to be provided with adequate training and guidance on monitoring physical health, and importantly how to escalate and respond to concerns as needed.

It is recognised that inpatients on psychiatric wards may be at higher risk of venous thromboembolism due to reduced mobility, poor fluid intake, restraint, catatonia, sedation and antipsychotic use. NICE's guidance on *Venous thromboembolism in over 16s: reducing the risk of hospital-acquired deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism* (NG89) makes clear that all acute psychiatric patients should be assessed to identify VTE and bleeding risk on admission, using a risk assessment tool. The Department will work with NHS England to consider the VTE risk assessment tool, in light of the concerns you have raised.

I note that you have also written directly to NICE. As NICE is an independent body, it will be for NICE to review its current guidance to see if any updates are needed and I would expect that NICE will want to take your concerns into account as part of this process.

I hope this response is helpful and demonstrates my sincere desire to improve care for patients so we can avoid such tragedies from occurring. Thank you for bringing these important concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

