

Dr Shirley Radcliffe
Assistant Coroner
East London Coroner's Court
Queens Road
Walthamstow
London
E17 8QP

Friday 4th October, 2024

Dear Dr Radcliffe,

Regulation 28 Report concerning Ms Hannah Eniola Angela Ayomipo Jacobs

Thank you for letter dated 21st August 2024 in which you asked The British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI) to provide a response to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths following the inquest into the tragic death of Hannah Eniola Angela Ayomipo Jacobs.

The British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) is the national, professional and academic society which represents the specialty of allergy at all levels. Its aim is to improve the management of allergies and related diseases of the immune system in the United Kingdom, through education, training and research. We wish to respond to all matters which fall under our remit.

Concern 1

"The evidence at the inquest referred to allergy action plans discussed in the healthcare settings and given to parents and patients. Hannah displayed what appeared to be excessive salivation at the dentist which her paediatric consultant (who gave evidence) said, with the benefit of hindsight was actually a manifestation of her inability to swallow. This is a sign of anaphylaxis. This was not recognised by dental staff as an inability to swallow and thus of anaphylaxis."

The BSACI Allergy Action Plans do state that difficulty swallowing is a manifestation of anaphylaxis. These plans were developed with allergy healthcare professionals and patient representatives. The BSACI is developing an online allergy education platform for all healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals which will include anaphylaxis. This will include the signs and symptoms and management approach for mild, moderate and severe allergic reactions. This will be rolled out extensively to a wide range of stakeholders. We would welcome the involvement of healthcare professionals across tertiary, secondary and primary care (e.g. Royal College of General Practitioners, Royal College of Nursing) in this activity, and healthcare leadership (e.g. NHS England, devolved nations health boards, Integrated Care Boards).

Concern 2

"The other symptom Hannah demonstrated was swelling of her lips which is listed on allergy plans as a mild to moderate symptom and thus provided a false sense of reassurance to her mother that cetirizine was what she needed."

BSACI Allergy Action Plans do state that reactions may progress from mild to moderate to anaphylaxis.

Healthcare professionals managing patients with food allergies advise patients and their carers to always carry two adrenaline autoinjectors with them at all times. This is also the advice of the [MHRA](#). This would include on the way to and from school. The BSACI education programme being developed aims to target all those who may have responsibility for people living with the risk of anaphylaxis, including school staff.

Concern 3

“The risk of future deaths in the context of anaphylaxis remains in the absence of further consideration of what constitutes an anaphylactic reaction as opposed a mild reaction, and the education of parents and patients of the safety of using AAls (adrenaline auto injectors) IF IN DOUBT.”

The BSACI Allergy Action Plans have two boxes that clearly list the symptoms and signs of firstly a mild or moderate reaction and secondly anaphylaxis. These were developed with a wide range of healthcare professionals and patient groups. Additionally, plans state “if in doubt, give adrenaline”.

As mentioned BSACI are developing an online allergy education platform for all healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals, which will include anaphylaxis, specifically its recognition and management. This will be rolled out extensively to a wide range of stakeholders.

BSACI has collaborated with patient organisations to develop guidelines and information leaflets. This includes an Anaphylaxis patient information leaflet which can be viewed [here](#). This clearly states the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and is accessible to all patients.

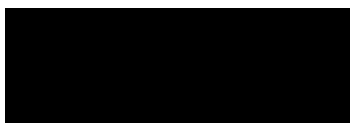
Concern 4

“I was made aware there had been a shortage of AAI at the time, but a vial of adrenaline was available at the chemist. However, it takes time to draw up. I am not sure if (assuming no national shortage) all chemists have AAI in stock for emergencies.”

BSACI is unable to comment on this point.

We trust that this letter addresses the concerns that have been raised in your report, however, please do contact us should you require any further information.

Your sincerely,



President – British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology