

Dr Shirley Radcliffe
Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of East London

By email via: [REDACTED]

15 October 2024

Dear Dr Radcliffe

Re: In the matter of Hannah Eniola Angela Ayomipo Jacobs (ref: 21836270)

Thank you for sending us the two Regulation 28 reports regarding the death of Hannah Eniola Angela Ayomipo Jacobs. We are very sorry to hear about this sad death and we would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Hannah's family.

By way of background, the GPhC is the independent regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies in Great Britain. Our main job is to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of members of the public by upholding standards and public trust in pharmacy. This includes maintaining a register of pharmacy professionals and premises, setting regulatory standards and investigating concerns.

We are aware of ongoing and intermittent supply issues with adrenaline autoinjectors (AAIs) which have been lasting for several years. While we do not have a direct role in the manufacturing of medicines or wider issues such as supply and shortages, we understand that medicines shortages can cause problems for patients, carers and those supporting people living with life-threatening allergies requiring adrenaline.

We know that pharmacy professionals are also concerned and having to use their professional judgement and make decisions in challenging situations, balancing a range of factors such as individual patient needs and available supplies of medicines.

Our standards require pharmacy professionals to deliver patient-centred care, which includes making the care of the patient their first concern and using their judgement to make professional decisions. This may include making decisions about providing medication in an emergency.

There are no requirements for registered pharmacies to routinely stock AAI's unless they are providing services which specifically require adrenaline to be available in case the patient suffers an anaphylaxis reaction. An example would be the seasonal influenza vaccination service.

For such services the adrenaline does not have to be available as an AAI and can be kept in other medicinal forms such as ampoules for injections.

Specific enquiries about the availability of particular medicines, can be directed to the medicines supply team at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on [REDACTED]. Alongside manufacturers and wholesalers, they would be best placed to help answer any questions you may have regarding the availability of medicines.

Additionally there are other supportive resources available, such as the **guidance and resources for safe use of adrenaline auto-injectors** produced by Medicines Healthcare products and Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This contains advice for healthcare professionals and advice for them to provide to patients and their carers on safe usage of AAI's.

We hope this information is helpful. If you should require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to Hannah's family to meet with me and our Chief Pharmacy Officer, [REDACTED], if that would be helpful in any way. Please do pass on our invitation and share my contact details.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive and Registrar