

5 December 2024

[REDACTED]
Coroner's Office
North London Coroner's Service
Barnet Coroner's Court
29 Wood Street
London EN5 4BE

By email only: [REDACTED]

**Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths ([REDACTED], date 11.10.24)
The late Kingsley Efosa Imafidon**

Thank you for bringing to our attention the circumstances leading to the death of Mr Kingsley Efosa Imafidon. I understand that he had a diagnosis of Sickle Cell disease (HbSS) prior to undergoing the liver biopsy.

You are correct that this scenario was not specifically covered in the guideline "Guidelines on the use of liver biopsy in clinical practice" from the British Society of Gastroenterology, the Royal College of Radiologists and the Royal College of Pathology Neuberger J, et al GUT 2020. In drafting a response to the Regulation 28 report, we have consulted the Guideline Lead, now retired, Professor [REDACTED] and Dr [REDACTED] Consultant Haematologist, a member of the guideline group.

Although sickle cell disease is not a bleeding disorder per se and therefore not included in the section on disordered coagulation, there is a concern from historical case reviews that local vascular issues in the sickle affected liver could increase the risk of bleeding.

We would therefore agree that it is important to remind health care professionals that particular care must be taken in any patients with a prior history of blood disorders before any biopsy. We would encourage discussion with a consultant haematologist for anyone with any blood disorder that may predispose to extra bleeding such as sickle cell disease.

We plan to publish this advice in a peer-reviewed journal within the next three months, prior to a scheduled five-year revision of the whole guideline. It is important to note that the reported scenario also occurred due to complication of the biopsy technique itself, but the principles will apply prior to any therapeutic intervention which requires biopsy in such patients with an enhanced bleeding potential.

We also plan to publish this advice in a BSG newsletter distributed to all members within the next month.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
BSG VP Hepatology

[REDACTED]
Consultant Hepatologist, Retired

[REDACTED]
Consultant Haematologist