

10 December 2024

Mr Peter Taheri
Assistant Coroner for Suffolk
Coroners Service
Beacon House,
White House Road,
Ipswich,
Suffolk,
IP1 5PB

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Our ref: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Taheri,

I write in response to your regulation 28 report, dated 21 October 2024, regarding the sad death of Mr Brian Beer. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Mr Beer's family.

Following receipt of your report, senior clinical advisers within our patient safety team have reviewed the concerns raised.

We note the comment in the report that Mr Beer died of an arterial thrombus. While we have published guidance on [venous thromboembolism](#) [NG89] which covers assessing and reducing the risk of (VTE or blood clots, including deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) in people aged 16 and over in hospital, the guidance does not cover arterial prophylaxis.

NG89 gives recommendations for anti-coagulation following fragility fractures of the pelvis, hip and proximal femur (1.11.2-4) and following *Elective* hip replacement (1.11.5-7). These state that people should be offered VTE prophylaxis for a month *if the risk of VTE outweighs the risk of bleeding*. The guideline also states the clinicians should 'Balance the person's individual risk of VTE against their risk of bleeding when deciding whether to offer pharmacological thromboprophylaxis to medical patients' (1.1.6).

The decision whether to continue or discontinue anti-coagulation would be a matter for clinical judgement based on careful assessment of an individual patient and their progress after surgery.

In line with the expert haematologist and her colleagues, we are not aware of evolving international consensus over the length of time for prophylaxis after a fractured neck of femur and the possibility of mesenteric thrombosis. NICE will continue to monitor new

evidence in this area of practice. Any new evidence of sufficient quality will be considered as part of a surveillance review, as described in our [guidelines manual](#).

Your report has been shared with the surveillance team who will carry out this work.

Please do let me know if you require any further information and again, I offer my sincerest condolences to Mr Beer's family.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Chief Executive.A black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the Chief Executive.

Chief Executive