



16/01/2025
Ms M Whittle
HM Assistant Coroner
Medico-Legal Centre
Watery Street
Sheffield
S3 7ES

Dear Ms Whittle

Re: Ref: 2024-0676 - David Stables

I am writing on behalf of the Dearne Valley Group Practice in response to the Regulation 28 Report dated 6 December 2024.

We recognise the concerns you have raised about the lack of recording of mental health review and medication reviews. I have been assured that reviews had taken place, but they were not clearly or accurately recorded by the clinicians who consulted with Mr Stables. I am writing to set out the steps we have taken to assure that we will record this correctly going forward.

1. On December 18, 2024, we held a clinical meeting specifically to address the concern raised in the Regulation 28 Report. As a practice, we agreed a process which will assist current and future clinicians to correctly code into the clinical record when they have completed a mental health review and/ or a mental health medication review. To do this we have created a new mental health template to standardise the procedure which all clinicians now use.
2. We have reviewed each patient who is currently taking a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) medication using the new template, starting with patients who have been discharged from a mental health service, as was Mr Stables. All patients have received a mental health review and a mental health medication review, who have been discharged from a mental health service.
3. We have updated the process for future patients following discharge from any mental health service. Now, when we receive notification that a patient has been discharged from any mental health service, we will contact the patient to book them an appointment for an initial mental health review. If the patient has been prescribed an SSRI, we will review the patient between 1 to 4 weeks (as determined by the reviewing clinician and with the patient's agreement) and ongoing until they are stable. Once a patient is stable, they will be recalled for review every 6 months whilst they are being prescribed SSRI medication.
4. Patients starting an SSRI for the first time will also be seen every 1 to 4 weeks until they are stable, after which they will also be reviewed every 6 months whilst they are taking the medication. If patients choose to stop the medication themselves without our knowledge, this will be picked up at the review date and a mental health review and discussed with the patient. We are using scheduled tasks for

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reminders to prompt clinicians to review the patients so that the responsibility is with the clinician and not the patient.

5. At our clinical meeting in December 2024 to discuss the recording of mental health reviews and mental health medication reviews, the clinical team were clear that reviews had happened in Mr Stables record, but the coding was missing. The coding requires a tick to be entered in a box which had not been completed. The new template which we created adds the code into the record when the clinician documents the history and examination of a patient when they are doing a mental health review, and there is a very clear prompt to confirm a mental health medication review has also taken place as well as set a scheduled task for the next review date. It has been made very clear to all the clinical team that in addition to undertaking reviews it is necessary that coding and clear wording of 'mental health review' / 'medication review' is included in order for clarity in the patient record so that it is clear to third parties that these have taken place, not just for mental health patients, but for all patients.
6. Patients who are still under the care of a secondary care mental health team will be reviewed by them, we will take over their care and treatment plan when the patient is discharged back to us.
7. Patients who we are currently prescribing medication for (all medication) will receive a medication review annually or biannually, and patients who are started on a new medication will also be monitored until stable at an interval in line with relevant guidance depending on their medication and then reviewed annually or biannually.

We hope that this will reassure you that we have taken your concerns on board and taken steps to review our processes and implement change.

Yours sincerely,



Practice Manager
Dearne Valley Group Practice

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