

10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Mr Richard T Middleton,  
Assistant Coroner for the Coroner Area of Dorset

Sent via e-mail to:

[REDACTED]

Coroner's Support Officer

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Middleton,

**Re. Reginald Victor Smith - Prevention of Future Deaths Report (ref: 35392141)**

Thank you for granting the British Orthopaedic Association (BOA) an extension to respond to the Regulation 28 Report concerning the death of Reginal Victor Smith (date of birth 11th June 1933).

Much of the delay in responding has been due to obtaining and viewing the X-rays available.

The scope of the information contained within the Regulation 28 Report and the available imaging is not sufficient to review the procedure carried out by the surgeon.

We note the matters of concern raised in the Report on the evidence received by the inquest suggest there were two probable reasons for the hip screw not correctly passing into the nail:

- firstly, before the femoral nail and jig were inserted it may be that the jig was loose and needed tightening or
- secondly, the jig used might have been slightly bent

We also note the specific concerns raised that:

1. Each jig is used many times in surgery having been sterilised after each procedure. It is hammered into the thigh bone and on this occasion may have become deformed over time.
2. The jig was sent away to the manufacturer for analysis but was lost and so no information was available to the court in relation to its integrity.
3. There is no quality control in place in relation to the examination of the jigs being used (other than when it is assembled in theatre by a nurse) prior to surgery. There is no auditing/ spot checks in relation to the integrity of the jigs.

All implants are supplied with an accompanying document setting out the recommended operative technique. The document offers guidance that the surgeon should heed but, as with any such technical guide, each surgeon must consider the particular needs of each patient and make appropriate adjustments when and as required.

The BOA has drafted generic advice for trauma and orthopaedic surgeons on the need for vigilance as to the condition and preparation of any jig used, as well as adherence to the operative technique documentation accompanying each implant.

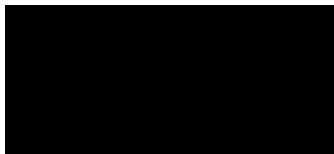
This draft guidance is currently being reviewed by the BOA and pertinent sub-specialty societies before being published. The BOA will of course send you a copy. It is envisaged that the guidance will be ready for publication by the end of May.

The BOA will also draft guidance as to the number and orientation of intraoperative imaging and post-operative 'check' X-rays.

Once again, the BOA will of course send you a copy upon publication. It is envisaged that this guidance too will be available by the end of May.

Do please contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

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Head of Policy and Public Affairs