

Your Ref: [REDACTED]
19 March 2025

Ms Leila Benyounes
HM Assistant Coroner for Gateshead & South Tyneside

By Email only

Dear Ma'am,

Joanna Daria Kowalczyk Inquest: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths Response

I write to formally respond to your Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) Report, dated 22 January 2025, following the inquest into the sad death of Ms Joanna Kowalczyk.

Your concern was as follows:

"2. The evidence on behalf of the treating chiropractor was that he did not consider it necessary to request GP records or hospital records, before assessment or treatment despite being informed about the Deceased's recent hospital attendance, investigation which was recommended, and her discharge against medical advice. Even in the updated consent form I have been provided with, which was designed by the British Chiropractic Association, there is no prompt or question designed for the chiropractor to ask to consider obtaining medical records before assessment or treatment, and when this may be appropriate, and the only reference to medical records is a consent to communicate as deemed necessary for the treatment, and for a report to be sent to the GP after treatment. I am concerned that consideration to obtaining medical records should always be given before assessment, particularly where recent medical treatment or investigations has been undertaken."

As a Chiropractor registered with the General Chiropractic Council (GCC), I ensure that I meet the training standards and competencies set out GCC's Code of Practice, particularly, as relevant in this case, in the context of Principle C, providing a good standard of clinical care and practice: C1 - Obtain and document the case history of each patient, using suitable methods to draw out the necessary information.

I will continue to follow the rules and guidance issued by my regulator, and I look forward to receiving any updated or additional guidance put in place by the GCC in response to your Regulation 28 report.

If you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]