

Ms Ellie Oakley HM Assistant Coroner Inner West London Coroner's Court 33 Tachbrook Street London SW1V 2JR **Co-National Medical Director**

NHS England Wellington House 133-155 Waterloo Road London SE1 8UG

4 June 2025

Dear Ms Oakley,

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Abdulrahman AlAjmi who died on 7 August 2024.

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths (hereafter "Report") dated 16 April 2025 concerning the death of Abdulrahman AlAjmi on 7 August 2024. In advance of responding to the specific concerns raised in your Report, I would like to express my deep condolences to Abdulrahman's family and loved ones. NHS England are keen to assure the family and yourself that the concerns raised about Abdulrahman's care have been listened to and reflected upon.

Your Report raises concerns over there being no set procedures, systems or structures regarding the acceptance by hospitals in the UK of patients for treatment from other countries, and that patients often arrive in a condition substantially different to that described to the receiving clinicians. You have raised that this leads to the concern that patients are being put at risk and the UK's health services are being put under unnecessary strain.

The concerns raised in your Report do not sit within NHS England's remit. NHS England notes that the Coroner has also addressed your Report to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) who are the more appropriate organisations to respond to your concerns. Where we are able to, NHS England will be happy to support these organisations in addressing the concerns raised.

While we note that, in this case, the receiving hospital was private and not under NHS jurisdiction, it is currently the case that any acceptance of a foreign patient by an NHS hospital would be subject to local procedures. We have therefore ensured <u>that North</u> <u>West London Integrated Care Board</u> (NWL ICB), the host <u>ICB</u> for the London Clinic, are aware of Abdulrahman's case and the concerns raised in your Report for assurance purposes.

There is also existing national guidance available on the repatriation of ill patients from overseas, produced by the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) and the Intensive Care Society (ICS), which you may find useful:

• Transfer of Critically III Adult.pdf

• Intensive Care Society | Guidance for repatriation of critically ill patients

I would also like to provide further assurances on the national NHS England work taking place around the Reports to Prevent Future Deaths. All reports received are discussed by the Regulation 28 Working Group, comprising Regional Medical Directors, and other clinical and quality colleagues from across the regions. This ensures that key learnings and insights around events, such as the sad death of Abdulrahman, are shared across the NHS at both a national and regional level and helps us to pay close attention to any emerging trends that may require further review and action.

Thank you for bringing these important patient safety issues to my attention and please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Co-National Medical Director (Secondary Care)