



Samantha Marsh
His Majesty's Coroner for Somerset
Somerset Coroners Service
Somerset Coroners Court
Old Municipal Buildings
Corporation Street
Taunton TA1 4AQ

19 June 2025

Dear Ms Marsh,

Re: Jacqueline Anne Potter

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future deaths following the inquest into the death of Jacqueline Anne Potter on 24 April 2025.

This loss is a devastating tragedy for the immediate and the wider family, and the healthcare professionals involved. We would like to begin by extending our deepest and heartfelt condolences to Anne's family for their profound loss.

This response has been developed following input from members of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Patient Safety Committee and Senior Officers of the College.

We recognise and respect the narrative conclusion from the inquest that Anne died from multiple traumatic injuries through suicide, secondary to her menopausal symptoms contributing to her mental health decline and exacerbation of her underlying anxiety.

We also recognise the matters of concern as outlined in your letter as follows,
'Certain elements of medicine and clinical practice training are compulsory but having heard evidence at the Inquest around mandatory and statutory training modules I learnt that this covers areas such as GDPR training and disposal of sharp objects such as syringes. I was surprised to learn that menopausal training is not mandatory in any area of clinical practice or specialism. I am concerned that there is no requirement to undertake essential compulsory menopausal training for those working in 'relevant' clinical practices such as Mental Health Practice, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Oncology, or even general as a general GP'.



At present, it is only a requirement for doctors on the General Medical Council's specialist register for obstetrics and gynaecology to have demonstrated competency in menopausal and postmenopausal care.

To support doctors in this aim, the RCOG provides educational initiatives, including its curricula on which the MRCOG qualification is based and tested through examinations, elevating care standards through clinical guidance, assisting in career advancement through examinations, coordinating professional development initiatives and events, and offering support services to its members.

The RCOG's core training curriculum which provides a framework for the training of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists ensures that management of the menopause is covered as a key skill. Understanding and management of the menopause is a key area on [the syllabus](#) for the MRCOG examination, which is an essential qualification in our speciality.

The College also has a Special Interest Training Module (SITM) in [menopause care](#). This SITM is aimed at learners with an interest in menopause care. It provides training on how to assess and investigate women with menopause-related symptoms, understand the benefits and risks of HRT and alternative therapies, and counsel and advise women accordingly.

Additionally, for General Practitioners who would like to develop a more advanced knowledge of women's healthcare, the RCOG also provides the Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (DRCOG). The core syllabus for this examination also includes diagnosis, investigation and management of the menopause. The DRCOG is primarily undertaken by those in General Practice who have an interest in Women's Health but is not mandatory.

Throughout the course of each year the RCOG and our Specialist Society (British Menopause Society) also host numerous training and education events which are accessible to all healthcare professionals, several of which support additional education into various aspects of care for menopausal women.

I hope this is a helpful response to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists