

[REDACTED]
Honorary Secretary of Council

Professor Paul Marks
Senior Coroner for Coroner Area of City of Kingston Upon Hull and County of East Riding of
Yorkshire

[REDACTED]

11 November 2025

Dear HM Coroner

Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths - touching on the death of Linda Janet Sharp

Thank you for asking us to comment on the matters of concern following the sad death of Linda Janet Sharp who died on the 21 November 2023. Our sincere condolences go to her family and friends.

'The matters of concern relate to expert evidence was heard which stated that it is fundamentally flawed to conflate a low Wells score with there being no possibility of a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and/or a pulmonary embolus (PE). A Wells score on its own does not exclude a DVT or PE'

The Royal College of General Practitioners works to improve patient care by encouraging the highest possible standards in general medical practice by supporting members, setting standards, providing education and training promoting research and advocating and representing the College and its 54,000 members.

General Practitioners have a broad curriculum, and the College is responsible for the definitive educational framework for all doctors undertaking GP speciality training. There are 5 areas of capability aligned to the General Medical Council's Generic Professional capabilities, and these are supported by Topic guides under which is included six clinical topic guides. The clinical topic guide relating to cardiovascular health includes a specific core area on thromboembolism under circulatory disorders.

Venous thromboembolic diseases: diagnosis, management and thrombophilia testing is covered in [NICE guidance NG 158](#) first published in March 2020 and updated in August 2023. There is a [visual representation of the NICE guidance ng158](#) and this outlines the correct use of the 2 level DVT Wells score outlining the concomitant use of D dimer and

Ultrasound scanning. GPs and Hospital specialists would follow this guidance on managing their patients.

We recognise that in this case the guidelines were not followed and the misinterpretation of the Wells score early in the aetiology of the condition, alongside other missed opportunities could have contributed to the circumstances leading to Linda Janet Sharp's death.

The College has therefore commissioned some internal work through our elearning team to highlight the specific issue of interpretation of the Wells score. We shall aim to publish this to be available to members in the first quarter of 2026 and the college will be responsible for the production and content of the e learning module. We shall promote this through our members network and our regular Chair's blog which reaches out to all 54,000 of our members.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the RCGP Honorary Secretary.A black rectangular box redacting the name of the RCGP Honorary Secretary.

RCGP Honorary Secretary