

Dear Coroner 's Office

I am responding to the attached S28 regarding the late John Franklin, having considered your concerns set out in Section 5.

Prior to hospital discharges we will always consider if there is a need for Assistive Technology (AT) to be in place for a safe discharge. There are occasions where AT is identified as beneficial but not essential and would not be deemed as necessary for safe hospital discharge, for instance where a person has other support means or is safe between calls and has the ability to understand the need to wait between calls and will not mobilise if there is a high risk of falls. Prior to hospital discharge, a triage process is undertaken to identify presenting needs and any risks, which would consider if AT is required to meet essential needs prior to discharge.

To ensure any learning is taken, we have reviewed our policy and procedures for hospital discharge. We are confident that the approach of ensuring AT needs are considered and only safe discharges are agreed is explicit in our processes.

We have reviewed Mr Franklin 's records, and we can confirm that he was not deemed as requiring AT on discharge due to needing all care provision to be given on his bed and requiring assistance to stand. He understood that he needed to wait for assistance, due his high risk of falls related to when mobilising and there was no identified risks associated with falls whilst in bed. There were no concerns noted at the point of discharge that Mr Franklin was unable or unwilling to wait for support to mobilise.

Staff have been reminded of the need to consider any risks when considering the use of AT and identifying if any of those risks must be mitigated through AT being in situ prior to discharge. Where this is deemed necessary for a safe discharge this will be shared with our acute colleagues and the person/representative and will be arranged in advance.

We would not be able to commit to AT always being in place prior to discharge as you can appreciate this would delay a significant number of discharges when the need has not been deemed essential.

Kind regards,

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