



**East Suffolk and
North Essex
NHS Foundation Trust**

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21 August 2026

Dear Mr Simblett

**REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT DEATHS – INQUEST TOUCHING UPON THE DEATH OF
SUZANNE FREDERICKS WHICH CONCLUDED ON 4 JUNE 2026**

I write in connection with the above-mentioned Inquest and the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Deaths issued by yourself on 12 June 2026 (“the Report”).

The Report highlighted concerns relating to how clinicians caring for transplant patients in non-specialist hospitals such as Colchester General Hospital can obtain sufficiently up- to- date blood test results. Not having reliably up- to- date results can, with the complexities that such patients present, mean that a patient’s chance of survival is affected. The arrangements for taking, processing and returning sample results in Colchester General Hospital (and for that matter, other hospitals in the UK) may need to be improved.

The information presented below is intended to describe the processes and steps that can be taken by East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (“ESNEFT”) to mitigate the risk of future deaths and address the concerns you have raised in respect of Colchester General Hospital.

TAKING, PROCESSING AND RETURNING SAMPLE RESULTS FOR TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AT COLCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Renal Unit at Colchester General Hospital are able to process most blood samples for transplant patients but at present are not able to process specialist tests, such as tacrolimus concentration. Colchester General Hospital therefore have to obtain blood samples for such tests and send them to a transplant centre to process and return results.

Historically, this approach however is not standard as the blood results have often been sent to the relevant transplant centre where the transplant has taken place, with varying processes for each.

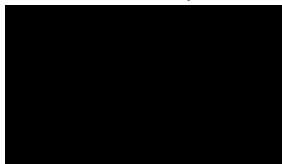
The Trust has however taken the decision to standardise the practice and send all blood samples to a single point of contact that has a daily assay for tacrolimus and can prioritise a sample on request.

The Trust hopes that the above information demonstrates the steps been implemented to address to the concern in respect of the taking of samples. The Trust are therefore changing the process for testing in Colchester General Hospital in order to reduce this operational risk in the future

I would like to personally extend our sincerest condolences to Ms Fredericks' family for their loss.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Interim Chief Executive Officer
East Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust