

FAO Mr J Pegg
Assistant Coroner
The Coroner's Office
Civic Centre 1,
Little Park Street,
Coventry,
CV1 5RS

18th September 2014

Dear Sir

Re: Donna Louise Bernadette Kirkland (deceased)

Thank you for your letter of 28 July 2014 enclosing the regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths in this matter.

We welcome the Coroner's interest and concern in ensuring future deaths are prevented and that any risks to patients around alcohol-based hand sanitising gel (alcogel) are minimised.

The Trust also shares your wish to bring the potential risks of alcogel to the Secretary of State, and is grateful to have been provided with a copy of the report that you have produced. It is not our understanding that you have sent the report to the Trust because you have identified that we need to do more than has already been done to further reduce the risk associated with alcogel. However, if we have misunderstood the purpose of you naming the Trust in the report, we would be grateful for clarification, particularly if there are further steps you believe the Trust should be taking.

Alcogel is a key part of infection control measures, both at the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust and nationwide in both NHS and private hospitals. An alcohol-free alternative has recently become available to NHS institutions. It does have some drawbacks compared to alcogel. Nevertheless, prior to the hearing of the inquest this summer, the Trust had investigated for itself this alternative, and had decided to replace the wall-mounted alcogel dispensers on its premises with this alcohol-free alternative.

At the inquest the questions of access to, and use of, alcogel were explored with a number of witnesses from the Trust. Evidence was heard at the inquest, and accepted by the Coroner, that following Donna's death the Trust had taken steps proactively to review the access to and use of alcogel across inpatient units and to raise the awareness of its staff of

██████████ - Chair
██████████ - Chief Executive

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the potential risks associated with the ingestion of alcohol. The Coroner was informed that the Trust was already in the process of replacing wall-mounted alcogel dispenser with the alcohol-free alternative. This process has now been completed.

The inquest did not identify any further steps which Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust might take to reduce the risk of future deaths.

The Trust will continue to monitor access to and use of alcogel across its sites.

The Trust endorses the Coroner's wider concerns and would be happy to speak to the Department of Health if they would like more information on the lessons learned and the changes that have been made within the Trust.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]
Chief Executive

[Redacted name] - Chair
[Redacted name] - Chief Executive

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