

23 DEC 2015

SCANNED

to Mr Cox
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H.M. CORONER

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18 December 2015

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr AM Cox
HM Assistant Coroner
Worcestershire Coroner's Court
The Civic
Martins Way
Stourport on Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 8UN

Dear Sir

Re: Wayne Patrick O'Neill deceased
Regulation 28: Report to prevent future deaths

Thank you for your letter and the enclosed regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths. I hope that the following is helpful to you and is of some comfort to the family of Mr O'Neill.

Before dealing with the substance of your report it is worth mentioning that prior to Mr O'Neill's inquest the team at HMP Long Lartin were already very aware of the issues related to the prescribing of anti-psychotic medication and had taken steps to address the need for ECGs when using these medicines and in particular when using these medicines in certain combinations or in combination with other medicines that interact to extend the QT interval.

Therefore:

- All patients prescribed any single or multiple anti-psychotic medication(s) and when prescribed in combination with other medications (such as tricyclic anti-depressants, erythromycin etc.) that have a propensity to increase the QT interval, will receive a routine, annual ECG as part of their package of care (there is a 12 monthly physical health review of mental health service users and the ECG forms part of this arrangement). This is already in place and was in place prior to Mr O'Neill's inquest. The Lead Pharmacist at HMP Long Lartin will sample audit this by 31 January 2016 to ensure that all people who should have received an ECG have done so.
- Patients who are prescribed anti-psychotic medication, whose medication is changed, will receive an ECG even if they have already received their annual ECG.

- All staff who are prescribers of anti-psychotic medication will receive a copy of the regulation 28 report, a copy of this response and a copy of a Pharmacist presentation which outlines the risks associated with extended QT intervals associated with particular medicines and groups of medicines (we are happy to share this presentation with you if you wish).
- The issue of anti-psychotic medication and extended QT intervals will be included in the HMP Long Lartin GP supervision session and the Mental Health MDT meeting to ensure appropriate exposure of clinicians to this area of concern.
- All patients initiated on anti-psychotic medicines at HMP Long Lartin will receive an ECG booked at the time the prescription is made and all new receptions on anti-psychotic medications will receive an ECG within one month of arrival at the prison.
- Training will be provided to the whole Nursing team with regard to recognizing medicines that should indicate a referral for an ECG. These medicines might readily be recognized by a Mental Health Nurse but not necessarily by a Primary Care nurse.

Whilst the combination of psychotropic medication had originally been prescribed at HMP Birmingham, the Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Authority alert relating to the prescribing of certain medications, has been shared with all of our prescribers at HMP Long Lartin to reinforce awareness of prescribing combinations of such medication.

I hope the above gives you some reassurance that we have considered the regulation 28 letter carefully and to some extent we have 'gone beyond' the original issue of medication interactions to consider the broader use of anti-psychotic medication with other groups or even in isolation. We hope that this will reassure you and also Mr O'Neill's family that we take the care and treatment of our patients very seriously. We are happy to answer any further enquiries you might have.

I have only sent this to yourself and shall be obliged if you could kindly forward to Mrs O'Neill. As the issue raised may be of wider interest I have no objections to this response being shared with the Chief Coroner or for wider circulation.

Yours faithfully



Sarah Dugan
Chief Executive