

The Borchardt Medical Centre
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Your Ref: AJC/AT/LAW
Our Ref: NS/LD

29 January 2016

AJ Cox
Assistant Coroner
Her Majesty's Coroner for the County of Devon
1 Derriford Park
Derriford Business Park
Plymouth
PL6 5QZ

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- 4 FEB 2016
CORONER'S OFFICE

Dear Sir/Madam

Response to the Coroner's concerns with regard to the death of Thomas Alexander Burchell and his subsequent inquest

My name is Dr Nicholas Stephen Smith. I am now Senior Partner at the Borchardt Medical Centre. I assumed that role on 1 September 2015 and in 2011 was a Partner at the Practice.

In response to the Coroner's matters of concern:-

The first matter of concern is about [REDACTED] thoughts and actions. [REDACTED] left the Practice in July 2014 and left the General Medical Council Medical Register shortly afterwards. The Practice currently has no formal contact with him so I do not feel myself in a position to comment on his thought processes or actions.

With regard to the second concern, we have now changed Practice policy and have insisted that the staff will add a code to the computerised records the same day that records arrive in the Practice so clinicians will be aware that records are in the building and can ask Reception staff to access them for the clinician so they are available for consultation.

With regard to the third concern, I took the opportunity to call a clinical meeting on 22 January. We have clinical meetings towards the end of every month and I used this meeting to review current guidance for suspected brain tumours.

[REDACTED]



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All partners, salaried doctors and training grades that were in surgery that day attended and we reviewed:-

1. NICE referral guidelines for suspected cancer 2005
2. NICE suspected cancer recognition and referral guidelines update 2015
3. NICE assessment and management of headaches in over-12s September 2012.
4. General Practice notebook online medical reference "brain tumours" (urgent referral guidance for suspected cancers) as well as
5. The local guidance for "north-west headache management guidelines for adults – based on NICE GC150 which were distributed to Practices on 5 November 2015 and approved by the Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group in June 2015". A hard copy of the presentation is available, if required.

After the clinical meeting, clinicians reflected on the information given and have added those reflections to their appraisal documents for 2016 which will contribute to their next revalidation.

I hope I have been able to answer the Coroner's matters of concern on behalf of the Practice.

I realise nothing I can say can ease the grief of Mr Burchell's family and I remain ready to assist the Coroner with any future correspondence.

Yours faithfully



Senior Partner Borchardt Medical Centre