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18-06-17

Ms Alison Mutch
HM Senior Coroner
Coroner's Court
Stockport – SK13AG

Re: Regulation 28 Report for David Ian Hamilton
Inquest held on 01-06-17

Dear Ms Mutch

Thank you for your report dated 05-06-17, which outlined the actions to be taken as per Regulation 28.

I attended the inquest on 01-06-17 and it is very helpful to have your report. I have since, fed back to my colleagues in the practice and also raised concerns about mental health support with colleagues in the Clinical Commissioning Group. Your report has also been read by all my colleagues. We have tried to address the concerns. The actions taken are as below:

- 1) Referral to Psychiatrist and escalation of matters by health professional:

There is guidance for Tameside GPs on the referral pathway to the Psychiatrist. I enclose evidence of letter from Consultant Psychiatrist, which outlines the pathway. (Attached). The main route of referral for non -urgent patients is the Single Point of Entry, Access Team and Healthy Minds, and patients have to wait a minimum of 12 weeks.

Any escalated referrals which need the intervention of a Consultant Psychiatrist, will be reviewed within two weeks of referral being made by GP and will be seen in outpatient clinic within eleven weeks.

Urgent Referrals will be seen within 48 hours.

As this pathway leaves GPs in a very vulnerable position, with no help (potentially for eleven weeks), we have escalated the matter to the Mental Health Clinical Lead for Tameside CCG,

[REDACTED] and Head of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, [REDACTED]

We have learnt that there are plans underway to develop a new model of care for people with complex needs that should improve provision for patients such as Mr Hamilton in the future.

2) Referrals to Sleep Clinics:

Based on the information that the RAID team is advising patients to ask for sleep clinic referrals and their letter to us advising us to refer, we have since found out that there is no sleep clinic for insomnia within Manchester.

The nearest sleep clinic for insomnia is Blackpool and there is a 20 week waiting list. The Choose and Book referral system also offered sleep clinic in Sherwood, Nottingham, and the waiting list is 20 days.

There is no other therapy being offered within Manchester for Insomnia. It would therefore be helpful in informing the RAID team of the lack of this service within Manchester area, if they are already not aware, so that patients can be guided appropriately by them.

Again, we have escalated this matter to the Head of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities in Tameside & Glossop CCG who has advised us that she will reinforce the need for Pennine Care MH Services to support GPs to make referrals for extraordinary services through the use of the Individual Funding Request Form. This will significantly support timely and appropriate referrals.

3) We have also written to the Mental Health Lead to ask for improved communication between the Healthy Minds and the GPs.

I hope these answers address the concerns you have raised.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely



[REDACTED]
GP