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Medical Director
Barts Health NHS Trust
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Ms M E Hassell
Senior Coroner for Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
London
N1C 4PP

30 January 2015

By special delivery

Dear Ms Hassell

Inquest touching the death of Mr Andrew James Aitken

I write in response to your Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths, dated 15 December 2014.

Your first concern was regarding a number of Mr Aitkens tablets that his ex-girlfriend ██████████ stated were left on the hospital bedside cabinet next to Mr Aitken whilst he was in ACCU. The concern being that as Mr Aitken had attempted suicide he could, reasonably, be expected to attempt this again.

The investigation involved looking into the patient's medical records and interviewing the staff involved. An entry dated 11 June 2014 states that the member of staff involved took the tablets then 'informed to SPR, kept it locked needs to be destroyed or handed to pharmacist tomorrow'.

This was sent to ██████████, Matron of ACCU at The Royal London Hospital. She identified the member of staff involved, ██████████, and interviewed her. ██████████ produced a witness statement. ██████████ confirms that on 11 June 2014 she and the SPR decided to hand the tablets to a Pharmacist for destruction. As she was unable to contact the ward Pharmacist she locked the tablets in the medicine cupboard.

Your second and third concerns are being investigated and addressed separately by the East London NHS Foundation Trust.

Your fourth and final concern was that Mr Aitken was discharged from hospital in gown and socks, with no clothes and shoes.

The investigation involved communicating with [REDACTED] who is the senior sister on ward 11C. She told me that she remembered this man very well. She stated that he was medically fit and the psychiatry team had discharged him; he was willing to go home and so they could not keep him in hospital. He did not have any clothes with him and he told staff that no one could bring him any in. The Trust booked and paid for a taxi to take him home as they did not want him going home on public transport in hospital pyjamas. The ward did receive a complaint in June whereby a safeguarding alert was raised, although it was deemed that the ward had done everything it could at the time and so the safeguarding was closed.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. I trust that you are assured I have taken them seriously and investigated them appropriately.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Director
Barts Health NHS Trust

