

Senior Coroner for Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
London
N1C 4PP

21st December 2017
By special delivery



Barts Health NHS Trust
Trust Executive Offices
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The Royal London Hospital
London, E1 2ES
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Dear Ms Hassell

I write in response to your Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths, dated 31 October 2017. Your concerns are related to the standard of nursing care provided to William Henry BERGMAN (died 20.12.16). This by an individual staff nurse and following a minor accident and head injury he sustained while an inpatient at the Royal London Hospital. These are concerns about lack of observation and escalation by the staff nurse and failure to recognise or act on potential risk factors which developed later.

Certain preventative measures have already been taken. Since October 2017 new post management of head injury guidance and a training package has been rolled out within the Royal London Hospital Older Peoples Service wards with other inpatient areas to follow. The guidance '*Observation of patients' with head injury in hospital*' was developed as an interim measure prior to the role out of a more formal and trust wide policy for the management of head injury (patients and staff) next year when this is completed (March 2018).

A trust safety notice was also distributed site wide warning other wards in our hospital group of the risks associated with post head injury management.

Finally I can advise that The Royal London Senior Management Team are commissioning an internal concise serious incident investigation to review the trusts handling of this case post death and are in the process of compiling an investigation case file to facilitate this (to be finalized by February 28th 2018).

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

Dr Simon Harrod
Medical Director
Royal London Hospital

CC
Legal Services
CQC

Director of Nursing & Governance Royal London Hospital

