

18 June 2019

+44 (0)300 323 0140

Laurinda Bower
HM Assistant Coroner
Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Coroner's Service
Nottingham City Council
Human Resources and Transformation Directorate
The Council House
Old Market Square
Nottingham
NG1 2DT

Our ref:EH103945

Dear Ms Bower,

Thank you for your letter of 8 May concerning the death of Alexander James Davidson.

You suggest that consideration should be given to a national approach for lipase/amylase testing in young people with relevant symptoms, and to the arrangements for reviewing paediatric patients who make an unscheduled return to an Accident and Emergency Department within 72 hours of discharge.

Our guideline on pancreatitis (NG104) notes (in section 1.2) that "*Diagnosis of acute pancreatitis is confirmed by testing blood lipase or amylase levels, which are usually raised. If raised levels are not found, abdominal CT may confirm pancreatic inflammation*". However, because the purpose of the guideline is to recommend treatments following diagnosis of acute pancreatitis, the accuracy of lipase or amylase in young people is not considered in it. Nevertheless, in the light of your letter, we'll reconsider the scope of the guideline when it is next reviewed.

NHS England and NHS Improvement, rather than NICE are jointly responsible for helping NHS providers to achieve the right levels and mix of staff, including in Accident and Emergency Departments.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dillon
Chief Executive