



MEG/TT/AW/LAW19-016

28th November 2019

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Mr. R. Simpson
Assistant Coroner
West Sussex Coroner's Office
Orchard Street
Chichester
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Dear Mr. Simpson

Re: Regulation 28 Report – Richard Ridout

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October 2019 under cover of which you enclosed a formal copy of the Regulation 28 report to Prevent Future Deaths.

The Trust welcomes the opportunity to review the way that complex patients who sustain trauma are managed. As part of this process, the PFD report has been shared with the A&E Consultants on both sides of the Trust and through teaching with the A&E junior Doctors. It will be shared with the Sussex Trauma network.

We can confirm that a protocol is being developed for the management of patients who have sustained trauma where there are differing accounts of the speed involved as well as emphasising that patients who are on long term opiates or sedatives, whether prescribed or not, will often have reduced clinical signs so the level of clinical suspicion needs to be increased. The need to give consideration to instigating a trauma call when there is an unclear account of the collision and, in particular, potential of a high speed impact, is included as part of the protocol.

While there was no clear clinical indication for a full trauma CT scan on this occasion, we are currently developing a protocol for the management of patients who have sustained a fractured scapula. The protocol will advise that these patients should now have x-rays of their cervical spine and chest, with a lower threshold to perform a CT scan if clinically indicated. The work on protocols is taking place across the two hospital sites and will be complete within 3 months.

The Trust was saddened by Mr Ridout's death and would like to give our reassurance that the Trust has taken the opportunity to review our current practice to ensure we manage patients who have sustained trauma in the most safe and effective way.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr Tim Taylor

Medical Director