

11 May 2017

+44 (0)300 323 0140

Dr Shirley A Radcliffe  
HM Assistant Coroner  
Inner West London  
Westminster Coroner's Court  
HM Coroner's Office  
65 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 2ED

✓  
SR

Our ref: EH80325

Dear Dr Radcliffe,

I write in response to the Regulation 28 Report into the death of Mr Michael Uriely. I was very sorry to learn of Mr Uriely's death.

We have considered the circumstances around Mr Uriely's death and the concerns you have raised.

We have produced a quality standard on asthma that covers diagnosing and managing asthma in adults and children (aged 12 months and over). NICE quality standards describe high-priority areas for quality improvement in a defined care or service area. Each standard consists of a prioritised set of specific, concise and measurable statements. They draw on existing guidance, which provides an underpinning, comprehensive set of recommendations, and are designed to support the measurement of improvement.

Our quality standard makes clear (on page 8) that services should be commissioned from and coordinated across all relevant agencies encompassing the whole asthma care pathway; that an integrated approach to provision of services is fundamental to the delivery of high quality care to adults, young people and children with asthma; and that all healthcare professionals involved in diagnosing and managing asthma in adults, young people and children should have sufficient and appropriate training and competencies to deliver the actions and interventions described in the quality standard.

Our quality standard includes the following statements that appear most relevant to the circumstances you've described:

- Quality statement 3: People with asthma receive a written personalised action plan

- Quality statement 5: People with asthma receive a structured review at least annually.
- Quality statement 9: People admitted to hospital with an acute exacerbation of asthma have a structured review by a member of a specialist respiratory team before discharge.
- Quality statement 10: People who received treatment in hospital or through out-of-hours services for an acute exacerbation of asthma are followed up by their own GP practice within 2 working days of treatment.
- Quality statement 11: People with difficult asthma are offered an assessment by a multidisciplinary difficult asthma service, to accurately diagnose their asthma, exclude alternative causes of persistent symptoms, manage comorbidities, confirm adherence to therapy and ensure they are receiving the most appropriate treatment.

These quality statements are based on the British Thoracic Society (BTS) and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network's (SIGN) British guideline on the management of asthma (SIGN clinical guideline 153), which is a NICE accredited guideline.

In addition to our published quality standard on asthma, we are currently developing guidelines on the diagnosis and monitoring of asthma and on asthma management. However, the scope of these guidelines do not cover managing severe asthma or acute asthma attacks.

Both guidelines are due to be published in October 2017. Once published, our quality standard will be reviewed and updated where appropriate, in line with our recommendations.

We will be producing tools and resources to help support the NHS to implement the recommendations, and we are working with NHS England on implementation of the guidance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sir Andrew Dillon', written over a horizontal line.

Sir Andrew Dillon  
Chief Executive