



Ms Caroline Topping
HM Coroner's Court
Station Approach
Woking
Surrey
GU22 7AP

Friday 12 March

Dear Ms Topping

Re: Regulation 28 Report - Mr Peter James Michael UNSWORTH

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) plays a leading role in the delivery of high quality patient care by setting standards of medical practice and promoting clinical excellence. We provide physicians in the United Kingdom and overseas with education, training and support throughout their careers. As an independent body representing over 39,000 Fellows and Members worldwide, we advise and work with government, the public, patients and other professions to improve health and healthcare.

Thank you for sending your Section 28 notice to the President of the Royal College of Physicians. This reply is on behalf of the organisation following consultation with appropriate officers and partners.

The matter of concern in your notice is of the recording and verifying of clinical advice given between clinicians. Whilst the Royal College of Physicians does not give specific advice to Physicians on this matter this is covered under GMC Good Medical Practice Duties of a Doctor which states Clinical records should include: the decisions made and actions agreed, and who is making the decisions and agreeing the actions.

As members of the Professional Record Standards Board (PRSB) we advise on elements of record standards. Following a review with PRSB the recording of advice is covered by GMC guidance, however standards to confirm the accuracy of that advice if it is given verbally is not currently covered in any standard. We have highlighted this as a member of PRSB. In response to learning from the CoViD 19 pandemic and the increase in the use of remote advice have proposed that standards are developed with respect to what elements of remote advice should be documented to ensure effectiveness and prevent harm. Where electronic records exist then this becomes much easier to implement as it is visible to both parties. We continue to advocate for the introduction of integrated electronic record systems within the NHS to enable this.

Yours sincerely

Interim RCP registrar