



**Blackpool Teaching
Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters
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Blackpool
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Tel [REDACTED]
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16 December 2020

Mrs Rachel Galloway
HM Assistant Coroner, Manchester West
Coroner Area of Lancashire & Blackburn with Darwen
Manchester City Coroners Office and Court
Exchange Floor
The Royal Exchange Building
Cross Street
Manchester
M2 7EF

RECEIVED
21 DEC 2020

Dear Mrs Galloway

Re Jean Williams – inquest concluded 9 November 2020

I write to you confirming receipt of your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, dated 16 November 2020, in relation to the death of Jean Williams, who sadly passed away on 19 November 2017. I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Mrs Williams' family.

In your letter you explain that during the inquest, the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern and that in your opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken.

We have taken your concerns extremely seriously and we have carefully considered the concerns applicable to Blackpool Teaching Hospitals. For those concerns, we have taken the following actions:

- 1) Lancashire County Council do not currently have in place a policy that any concerns/issues raised on their risk assessments of bed levers at the premises should be reported to the Occupational Therapy Team at the Trust.**

And

- 2) The Occupational Therapy Team at the Trust, who are now correctly trained to fit and assess a patient for the use of the Bed Lever, are not – at present – routinely fitting the bed levers at Thornton House. In fact, there has been a miscommunication that Bed Levers are no longer to be used at Thornton House. Occupational Therapists prescribe bed levers due to the medical need of the patient and are now trained to fit them properly following full assessment of the patient.**

Chairman [REDACTED]

Chief Executive [REDACTED]

RESEARCH MATTERS AND SAVES LIVES - TODAY'S RESEARCH IS TOMORROW'S CARE

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals is a Centre of Clinical and Research Excellence providing quality up to date care. We are actively involved in undertaking research to improve treatment of our patients. A member of the healthcare team may discuss current clinical trials with you.



Although these concerns are not necessarily directed at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, we were very keen to support our colleagues from Lancashire County Council (LCC) in making services for patients safer and a meeting was held between our Trust and LCC on 2 December 2020 to address the concerns raised.

In summary, the following agreements were made

- a) Bed levers are permitted for use at Thornton House. An individual risk assessment must be completed by the prescriber for each patient, in line with Blackpool Teaching Hospital's cross-prescriber training
- b) The 'deliver and fit' model will no longer be used for the provision of bed levers at Thornton House. Prescribers will request delivery only and the bed lever will be fitted by the prescriber and the 'check visit' completed in the presence of the patient. Should a patient bring their own bed lever into Thornton House, the therapy staff will complete a risk assessment to ensure it is fit for purpose and safe for use, prior to the bed lever being utilised. The intermediate care team have been made aware of the above decisions at the meeting on 2 December 2020
- c) LCC have advised that following the inquest, the Thornton House daily risk assessment was updated and now specifies that the bed lever should be removed if any concerns are identified within daily checks. The individual identifying the concern is responsible for removing the bed lever from use and contacting the Intermediate Care Team, to request a review by the prescriber. The patient's care plan is then to be updated to reflect the removal of the bed lever and identify any increased support required to meet the patient's needs.

In addition to completion of our internal action plan, which was part of the evidence submission for the inquest, and in order to drive wider professional learning, the Trust's Interim Chief AHP has also shared the findings of this very sad event, and your overall conclusions, with senior Allied Health Professions (AHP) Leads across the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System, at the monthly AHP Council meeting. This will encourage system learning amongst senior AHP colleagues from different trusts across the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System, who will undoubtedly introduce learning and improvements in their respective trusts where appropriate to do so.

I hope that the above responses provide you with the assurance that we have taken your concerns extremely seriously and that we have taken appropriate actions to address your concerns, in order to prevent a similar event from occurring.

Yours sincerely



Dr [REDACTED]
Executive Medical Director