

16 December 2015

Ms Pela Demertzis
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank
Victoria 3006

Dear Ms Demertzis,

Re: Court ref: 2011 004611 – death of Mohamed Hamza

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (“the College”) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 1 September 2015 regarding the death of Mohamed Hamza (Court ref: 2011 004611).

Pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, the College responds to the recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1

“That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners considers the need to advise its members to implement protocols to give effect to the Heart Foundations Action Plan so that any patient calling a general practice with chest pain matching the description in the Action Plan is advised to call an ambulance.”

The RACGP will issue a reminder to GPs of the availability of the educational resources for medical professionals through the Heart Foundation (www.heartfoundation.org.au) including the *Toolkit for general practice* and the BeAWARE online learning module.

We will achieve this by placing a relevant item in the next RACGP Victorian Faculty newsletter.

http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/ws_ap_patient_lr.pdf

Recommendation 2

“That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners considers the need to train its members in relation to the significance of the absence of pain and a normal ECG in determining whether a person is suffering an acute coronary episode.”

We have passed Recommendation 2 to the RACGP Curriculum Renewal Project 2015 with specific reference to the following Domains of General Practice:

Domain 1 - Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

Domain 2 - Applied professional knowledge and skills



We will also pass this recommendations on to Regional Training Providers, the organisations who are responsible for the delivery of vocational training for medical graduates wishing to specialise in general practice.

Recommendation 3

“That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners considers the need to advise its members that any patient with chest pain matching the description in the Heart Foundations Action Plan should be immediately referred to an emergency department.”

This is addressed under Recommendation 1.

Recommendation 4

“That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners considers the need to remind its members of the importance of comprehensive clinical notes.”

The RACGP initiated the development of *Quality health records in Australian primary healthcare* which describes seven essential attributes of quality health records. The RACGP will remind members of this resource with specific reference to the following attributes:

Completeness: Sufficient information collected in a consultation is then recorded in the health record, to reliably serve a range of purposes.

Accuracy: The record of a consultation in the patient health record correctly reflects the information captured in that consultation

Timeliness: Information captured in a consultation is recorded in the patient health record at the time of the consultation or as soon as practicable afterwards, and information from other sources (e.g. the results of a diagnostic procedure) are incorporated in the patient health record within a reasonable timeframe.

We will achieve this by placing a relevant item in the next RACGP Victorian Faculty newsletter.

Should you or the Coroner wish to discuss this further, please contact the RACGP Victoria Faculty on (03) 8699 0468.

Yours sincerely

A/Prof Morton Rawlin
Chair, Victoria Faculty