

IN THE CORONER'S COURT OF VICTORIA AT GEELONG

CASE No. 2011/1475

IN THE MATTER OF AN:

INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF LEROY SCOTT

**RESPONSE OF BARWON HEALTH TO CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS
PURSUANT TO SECTION 72(2) Coroners Act 2008**

1. **Recommendation One:** That there be clearer protocols between the Hospital and SJOG Pathology so that information is readily available to inform hospital staff in relation to:
 - **The hours of operation over public holidays and weekends**
 - **The name and contact details of the on-call scientist for urgent blood results on evenings, weekends and public holidays.**
- In consultation with St John of God Pathology (**SJOG**), Barwon Health confirm the following procedure is currently in operation in relation to communication to Barwon Health staff of SJOG laboratory opening times and relevant contact information:
 - » The hours of operation of the SJOG laboratory on evenings, weekends and public holidays and the name, mobile phone number and pager of the on call scientist at SJOG are published on the Barwon Health HMO Roster.
 - » The HMO Roster containing this information is available to all staff through the SharePoint Portal and is widely distributed in hard copy.
 - » If the on call scientist does not respond to a call, staff are directed to contact the Barwon Health switchboard.
 - » The switchboard has the telephone numbers of 3 of the senior team members of the Microbiology Department of SJOG Pathology, who can then be contacted.
 - » If there is any change to these telephone numbers, SJOG pathology are responsible for informing the switchboard of alternate contacts.
2. **Recommendation Two:** That **SJOG Pathology should inform Barwon Hospital, via the on-call physician liaison officer with the laboratory, if a coagulase test is to be commenced less than two hours before staff leave in order that a decision might be made by clinical staff as to whether they**

require the attendance of the on-call scientist to read the results at the 2 hour, 4 hour intervals. Similarly, the same should apply if the 2 hour result is known but the laboratory will be closed when the four hourly interval result is to be known. It would be expected that the physician should then pass on that information to the treating team.

- SJOG and Barwon Health have recently consulted on the development of new policy and procedure for management of preliminary positive blood culture results. Barwon Health is currently developing a Positive Blood Culture Procedure document and flow chart, which will detail the communication requirements and flow of information between Barwon Health and SJOG in relation to preliminary positive blood culture results.
- It is the intention of Barwon Health that the Positive Blood Culture Procedure will include the following:
 - » The on call Physician Liaison will be the SJOG Pathology Duty Microbiologist.
 - » SJOG will advise the Barwon Health Registrar to commence empirical antibiotics in response to a preliminary positive blood culture.
 - » In circumstances where a coagulase test has been commenced following a preliminary positive blood culture result and the scientist is not scheduled to be working at the relevant times for inspection of the coagulase test results, the on call Physician Liaison will call the Barwon Health Registrar (of the treating team) to seek confirmation of whether the SJOG scientist is required to return to the laboratory after hours to check the coagulase results.
 - » If a decision is made to commence empirical antibiotics in response to the preliminary blood culture result, the Barwon Health Registrar can direct SJOG that they are not required to return to check the coagulase results.
 - » Should the decision be made by the Barwon Health treating team **not** to commence empirical antibiotics in response to the preliminary positive blood culture and to wait for the coagulase results, this decision must be escalated by the treating Barwon Health Registrar for approval to the on call Barwon Health Infectious Diseases Consultant/Registrar.
 - » The on call Infectious Disease Consultant/Registrar will then give direction to the on call Physician Liaison as to whether the SJOG scientist is required to return to the laboratory to check the coagulase test results at the relevant intervals.
 - » If this direction is given by the on call Infectious Disease Consultant/Registrar, the results of the coagulase test at the

relevant intervals must be provided by the on call SJOG scientist to the on call Barwon Health Infectious Disease Consultant/Registrar.

- » The on call Barwon Health Infectious Disease Consultant/Registrar will then communicate the results and discuss implications and treatment plans with the Barwon Health treating team.
- » All discussions, including names of persons involved in the communications, will be communicated to other members of the treating team and clearly documented in the patient's medical record by the Barwon Health treating team Registrar.
- » SJOG communications will be recorded in their clinical notes system by the Duty Microbiologist and scientist respectively.

26 February 2015

BARWON HEALTH