



Court ref: COR 2015 000592  
SCV ref: CC2019-07

Marde Bevan  
Coroner's Registrar  
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Bevan,

**Investigation into the death of Isabella E Rees**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 April 2019 accompanying Coroner Caitlin English's finding with inquest into the death of Isabella E Rees.

I refer to the Coroner's recommendation:

*'...that the Victorian Paediatric Clinical Network, Safer Care Victoria and Royal Children's Hospital develop a state-wide clinical practice guideline for the assessment and management of potential button battery ingestion.'*

*'This guideline could be new or an amendment to the existing Royal Children's Hospital clinical practice guideline for foreign body ingestion. The guideline should consider or include material from both QISU (which includes Dr Barker's guideline 'Disc batteries: Who and What do I x-ray?') and NASPGHAN guidelines for button battery ingestion and highlight the need to consider occult ingestion, including any unexplained presentation of melaena in a paediatric patient.'*

*'Further, the guideline should promote the Victorian Poisons Information Centre as the first point of information; and be readily available via the Clinician's Health Channel website and in Paediatric Statewide Clinical Practice Guidelines.'*

The Royal Children's Hospital Clinical Practice Guideline Development Group has incorporated button battery ingestion within the Victorian statewide Clinical Practice Guideline Foreign body ingestion, which was last revised August 2017, to enable button battery ingestion to be considered every time there is a suspected foreign body ingestion. This Clinical Practice Guideline is available for clinicians across Victoria via the Royal Children's Hospital's Clinical Guideline Portal/App and via the Clinician's Health Channel.

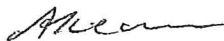
The North American Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) guideline is listed as a resource used during the Clinical Practice Guideline development and the Clinical Practice Guideline aligns with the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit (QISU) advice where appropriate. The Victorian Paediatric Clinical Network Button Battery Expert Advisory Group Report of August 2017 was reviewed during the Clinical Practice Guideline development.

The Royal Children's Hospital Clinical Practice Guideline Development Group accepts the recommendation to highlight the need to consider occult ingestion, including any unexplained presentation of melaena in a paediatric patient and will update the Clinical Practice Guideline to include reference to melaena and unexplained gastrointestinal bleeding for children by 1 December 2019.

The Victorian Paediatric Clinical Network and the Royal Children's Hospital Clinical Practice Guideline Development Group do not agree that guideline should promote the Victorian Poisons Information Centre as the first point of information, following suspected button battery ingestion. Instead it is recommended to promote immediate presentation to hospital to minimise time to treatment.

Should you have any queries, please contact Libby White, Paediatric Project Lead, Victorian Paediatric Clinical Network on (03) 9096 7534 or [libby.white@safecare.vic.gov.au](mailto:libby.white@safecare.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Adj. Assoc. Professor Ann Maree Keenan,  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Safer Care Victoria**

Date: 1/17/2019