



**ST VINCENT'S
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**

MELBOURNE

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

St Vincent's Private Hospital
Melbourne
ABN 61 083 645 505

Level 22, 100 William Street
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UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF
MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

6 September 2019

Attn: Coroner Olle
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



Dear Coroner Olle

Re: Coroner's findings into the death of Mr DARREN ANDREW TEMPLETON
Court Reference: COR2017 003850

Thank you for your letter of 23 May 2019, enclosing the findings of your investigation into the death of Darren Andrew Templeton.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne (SVPHM) acknowledges the tragic death of Mr Templeton, who died of a pulmonary thromboembolus. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

I refer to the Coroner's recommendations:

58. Pursuant to section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, I make the following recommendations connected with the death:

- 1. St Vincent's Private Hospital RCA should review their VTE prevention policy and in particular the plan to consult orthopaedic surgeons in order to reach a consensus and address the issue of wide variations in VTE prophylaxis practices of individual physicians.*
- 2. St Vincent's Private Hospital should ensure completion of their VTE prevention policy review in a timely manner and establishment a specific timeframe for completion.*
- 3. St Vincent's Private Hospital VTE Prevention Policy should be updated to improve and ensure staff adherence in completion and documentation of VTE risk assessment in all hospitalised patients. The prescribed management should also be clearly documented by the treating medical practitioner and should be supported by one of the Clinical Care Standard's listed evidence-based guidelines. While awaiting an updated policy, St Vincent's Private Hospital should increase staff education and awareness of the risks of VTE in all hospitalised patients.*

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The Coroner's recommendations will be implemented by SVPHM.

I can confirm that after a thorough and extensive review of all the evidence, and consultation with orthopaedic surgeons, a consensus has now been reached with regard to acceptable pharmacological VTE prophylaxis regimens. The SVPHM VTE prevention policy (the VTE Policy) will be updated to reflect the agreed options. This newly developed guideline is based on an extensive review of current literature and research and is supported by evidence based guidelines.

Ideally, update of the VTE prevention policy would have occurred more promptly; however, given the controversy in this area and the lack of a current Australian best practice guideline, a more lengthy process was needed. This required an extensive review of all of the evidence, before an acceptable evidence-based guideline could be agreed upon.

This review process has now concluded and the VTE Policy is in the final stages of completion. We anticipate that the VTE policy will be finalised and implemented in October 2019.

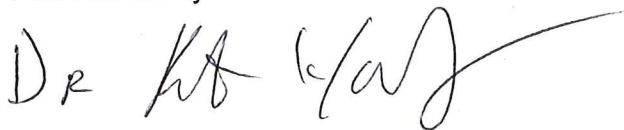
A thorough review and comparison between the VTE Policy and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's VTE Prevention Clinical Care Standard has been undertaken. This analysis has led to improvements in the SVPHM VTE risk assessment tool, patient education, and discharge instructions.

This work was performed in conjunction with St Vincent's Health Australia's (SVHA) Clinical Assurance and Reliability Program, which has undertaken an audit of 200 charts and is now developing recommendations to ensure that the VTE clinical standard is complied with.

The SVHA private division of hospitals has identified VTE, a hospital acquired complication, as a priority and has committed to reducing the occurrence across all sites. In addition to SVPHM's review, SVHA will also conduct an organisation-wide review, which will be finalised in approximately three months.

Lastly, there will be ongoing auditing to monitor compliance against the VTE clinical care standard, while further education and training has and will continue to be provided to staff members.

Yours sincerely



DR KATHERINE WORSLEY
Medical Director
St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne