

15 September 2021

For the attention of Coroner Gebert

Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Via email: Team5@courts.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner Gebert,

**Investigation into the death of Melanie Doherty
Court ref: COR 2018 001213
Response to Recommendation**

I refer to the Findings without Inquest dated 24 May 2021 of the investigation into the death of Melanie Doherty and to the Recommendation for Eastern Health.

We thank the Court for engaging with Eastern Health in the development of the Recommendation and provide the following response.

Recommendation (b):

In circumstances where a parent needs to stay with their baby at Eastern Health prior to the baby's discharge, and Eastern Health is aware that the parent has medication requirements, Eastern Health will offer admission to the parent. As a consequence, the parent's assessment and care plan, including medication management as appropriate, will be managed and documented consistently with Eastern Health practices. Should the parent decline admission, they will be unable to stay overnight at Eastern Health.

Having regard to the Coroner's intention to prevent the prescription or administration of medication that potentially places the woman at risk, Eastern Health has implemented the Coroner's Recommendation so that women staying with their baby at Eastern Health prior to the baby's discharge, who require S8 or S11 medications, or women who have severe mental health concerns, who are taking S4 medications, will be offered admission as a patient. As a consequence, their assessment and care plan, including medication management as

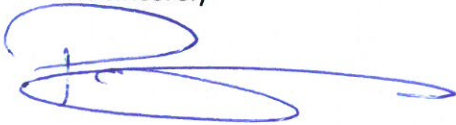
appropriate, will be managed and documented consistently with Eastern Health practices. Should the parent decline admission, they will be unable to stay overnight at Eastern Health.

For the purpose of completeness, Eastern Health notes that a high percentage of women require some form of medication while recovering from giving birth, including simple analgesia, anti-inflammatories or oral antibiotics. This new process will not apply to a parent on the low risk medications described, which do not require management by Eastern Health.

Eastern Health is committed to providing safe, high quality care to people in our community and welcomes the Coroner's recommendation which has supported the ongoing improvement of Eastern Health's medication management process.

For further information, please contact Emma Carnovale, Chief Counsel on 98953269 or EHLegal@easternhealth.org.au.

Yours sincerely



PAUL LEYDEN

Acting Executive Director, Clinical Operations -SWMMS
(Surgery, Women & Children and Acute Specialist Clinics,
Mental Health, Medical Imaging & Statewide Services)

Cc: Adj Prof David Plunkett, Chief Executive, Eastern Health
Emma Carnovale, Chief Counsel

Att: Memorandum dated 9 August 2021
Guideline – Maternity Boarder Mothers

Guideline

Title

Maternity Boarder Mothers

1. Sponsorship

Executive Sponsor (Title)	ED SWMMS
Director Sponsor (Title)	PD Women and Children and Acute Specialist Clinics
Coordinating Author (Name and Title)	Christine Lamotte

2. Commissioning

2.1 Commissioning (completed by Author in consultation with Sponsors listed above)							
2.1.1 Is this guideline new ?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to 2.1.4 No <input type="checkbox"/> Objectify no: ____ Go to 2.1.2						
2.1.2 Will this guideline, help EH achieve a desired outcome / is it still required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> go to 2.1.3 No <input type="checkbox"/> Detail reason for proposed decommissioning: _____						
2.1.3 Summarise reason for review and changes made:							
2.1.4 Purpose of guideline	To provide guidance on eligibility criteria and processes for women staying in hospital as boarder mothers to feed and care for their babies who are admitted to Special Care Nursery. (Note: this is in response to a coroner's recommendation regarding boarder mothers)						
2.1.5 Scope	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">EH-Wide <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;">Corporate Procedure <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Program-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Directorate specific <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> </table>	EH-Wide <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Procedure <input type="checkbox"/>	Program-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Directorate specific <input type="checkbox"/>	
EH-Wide <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Procedure <input type="checkbox"/>						
Program-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Directorate specific <input type="checkbox"/>							
2.1.6 Are there existing policy documents relevant to this topic? (If yes, consider if can be incorporated into existing document)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Title and number No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
2.1.7 With which EH Standard would this guideline?	Appropriate and Effective Care						
Will development or revision of this Guideline, procedure or Protocol impact on the Medical Record – Electronic or Paper?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Electronic Medical Record - Refer to the EMR Clinical Practice Change & Optimisation Guideline* <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Paper Medical Record – Refer to the Clinical Document Approval Guideline* *Wherever possible, EMR change requests and revised Clinical Documents are to be submitted for approval at the same time as the Guideline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No						
2.1.8 Who will be consulted (stakeholders)?	Maternity Quality and Strategy Committee Neonatal and Paediatric Quality and Safety Committee Anne Goulopoulos, Acting Director of Pharmacy						

[insert Guideline title and date of approval]

2.1.9 Which committees are required to endorse this guideline?	Maternity Quality and Strategy Committee Neonatal and Paediatric Quality and Safety Committee Anne Goulopoulos, Acting Director of Pharmacy
2.1.10 Which committee will approve this guideline?	Women and Children Quality and Strategy Committee
2.2 Commissioning committee approval to develop/review guideline/procedure/protocol <i>(completed by committee Secretary or delegate)</i>	
Approval to proceed with development/review or to decommission (delete one) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Reason (if no): Date Commissioned: Name of committee that approved/disapproved commissioning:	

[insert Guideline title and date of approval]

To: Eastern Health Midwives
Eastern Health Paediatricians
Eastern Health Special Care Nursery Staff
Eastern Health Pharmacists

Cc:

From: Christine Lamotte & Dr Andy Lovett

Date: 9th August 2021

Subject: **Maternity Boarder Mothers**

Following Eastern Health receiving a Coroner's recommendation, effective immediately any woman staying with their baby at Eastern Health prior to the baby's discharge from the Special Care Nursery (Boarder Mother) who require S8 or S11 medications or women with severe mental health concerns who are taking S4 medications will be offered admission. As a consequence, the parent's assessment and care plan, including medication management as appropriate, will be managed and documented consistently with Eastern Health practices. Should the parent decline admission, they will be unable to stay overnight at Eastern Health.

To support this, a new CPG, '*Maternity Boarder Mothers*' is being commissioned and will be distributed as soon as it has been written and through the Eastern Health approval processes.

If anyone has any questions regarding this please contact your manager or the Associate Program Director Women and Children at your site.

Christine Lamotte

Program Director Women & Children and Acute
Specialist Clinics
Site Director Box Hill Hospital

Dr Andy Lovett

Executive Clinical Director, Women & Children and
Acute Specialist Clinics
Clinical Director Paediatrics