



Secretary

Department of Health

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Coroner Leveasque Peterson
Coroners Court of Victoria

Via e-mail: cpresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner Peterson

Thank you for your letter regarding your findings in the death of DA and your recommendations to the Department of Health (Court reference: 2019 1321). I am responding to your recommendations.

I am saddened to learn the circumstance of DA's death and I wish to extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends. Your findings highlight the potential harms inherent in misuse of prescription medicines, and the very intent of SafeScript to reduce the risks of these harms.

Thank you for asking us to review and amend the SafeScript training modules to strengthen clinicians' patient education around medications that affect the central nervous system, and the additive sedating effects of alcohol. I accept this recommendation in full.

Unfortunately, I am not able to accept your recommendation to review and amend SafeScript educational materials for patients and their families. SafeScript does not have patient-facing educational materials. It is a clinical tool for clinicians and pharmacists only.

However, I would like to suggest an alternative solution to achieve the same end. My Department is currently working with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation to strengthen its Alcohol Prevention guidelines within the Community Health – Health Promotion program guidelines 2021-2025. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation is a key partner for us, assisting in the delivery of quality population level prevention services in the community. For example, as a part of the government's naloxone reform work, client materials regarding overdose awareness education will be pushed out into the community with the launch of the naloxone reforms. I would suggest that we work with the Foundation to strengthen the very messages you desire in the community-facing materials.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Stefan Tulloch, Acting Chief Officer, Medicines and Poisons Regulation at the Department of Health on 0431 245 803 or Stefan.tulloch@health.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Professor Euan M Wallace AM
Secretary

16/11/2021