



Secretary

Department of Health

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Ms Colleen Bebbington
Senior Coroner's Registrar Coroners Court of Victoria

Via email: cpresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Investigation into the death of [REDACTED], (Court reference number COR 2020 005825).

Dear Ms Bebbington

Thank you for your letter providing me a copy of Coroner Caitlin English's findings into the death of [REDACTED]. I was sorry to read about the death of [REDACTED], and I am writing in response to the findings.

I note the findings include a recommendation to the Department of Health:

Recommendation 1:

The Victorian Department of Health consider amending the wording of the Statewide Referral Criteria regarding aortic aneurysm to clarify which patients should be discussed with the vascular registrar or sent to an emergency department, including the significance of transient symptoms.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented. The Department of Health has contacted the Vascular Clinical Review Panel who developed the current criteria. The panel members have recommended the panel be reconvened, as soon as practicable, to further discuss this recommendation to determine what if any changes are required to the aortic aneurysm statewide referral criteria.

If the clinical review panel decides to revise the wording, once formally approved, the department will then work with the Primary Health Network to update general practices' Health Pathways guides and undertake to educate general practitioners on the change. The statewide referral criteria website will then be updated to reflect the changes. It is anticipated any amended version of the aortic aneurysm statewide referral criteria would be implemented in the second half of 2022.

The Department of Health will provide you with an update once the clinical review panel has decided whether any changes will be made to the aortic aneurysm criteria.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Sylvia Barry, Director Program Improvement Health Services and Ageing (03) 9096 7581 or Sylvia.Barry@health.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Professor Euan M Wallace AM

Secretary
01/04/2022