

Ms Nicole D'Rozario  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms D'Rozario

## **Investigation into the death of Mrs Peta Hickey - Court ref: 2019 2336**

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 2022 concerning the Coroner's investigation into the death of Mrs Peta Hickey. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has considered the Coroner's findings and the recommendations for the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS) Advisory Committee (DIASAC).

The Coroner found that Mrs Hickey died following an anaphylactic reaction to CT contrast and recommended the DIASAC review the current standards and propose revised standards or means of applying the current standards to better effect. In addition, the Coroner recommended that the Commission consult with The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) regarding any modification of the standards and to communicate any changes.

The Commission supports the recommendations made by the Coroner.

In January 2022, the Commission recommenced a review of the DIAS Standards and accreditation model that was initiated by the Australian Government Department of Health in 2018. Consultation with the sector and consumers is underway. This consultation will inform the development of standards, and the Commission is working with various stakeholders to identify other safety and quality issues faced by patients accessing diagnostic imaging services. As part of this process, the Commission is investigating areas of variation in diagnostic imaging practises, what data is being used to monitor diagnostic imaging and any potential ways to enhance the current accreditation model. Changes to the DIAS Standards will include requirements relating to the appropriateness of medical imaging requests, medicine management and clinician training. Draft standards are expected to be released for consultation in 2023.

The Commission welcomes the opportunity to work with RANZCR to address the recommendations. An initial meeting was held with RANZCR in April 2022 on this matter. RANZCR is represented on DIASAC and has been invited to participate in the consultation process to develop safety and quality standards. The Commission is committed to safety and quality initiatives that address acute anaphylaxis risks. In November 2021, the Commission released the [Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standard](#), which provides quality statements to improve the recognition, treatment and follow-up care of anaphylaxis in acute care.

As part of its work on the appropriateness of care, the Commission is considering opportunities to develop an educational video that provides a high-level framework for consumers to make informed decisions about assessments, interventions, and medications.

The video will increase the awareness of interventions that are not subject to rigorous external scrutiny generally associated with reviews that occur for items on the Medical Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact  
Margaret Banks, Director – National Standards Program  
(02) 9126 3684 or [margaret.banks@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:margaret.banks@safetyandquality.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debora Picone'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D'.

Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AO  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care**  
8 August 2022