



## Secretary

Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
Telephone: 1300 650 172  
GPO Box 4057  
Melbourne Victoria 3001  
[www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)  
DX 210081

BAC-CO-29378

Ms Colleen Bebbington  
Senior Coroner's Registrar Coroners Court of Victoria  
Via e-mail: [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Bebbington

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

Further to my letter of 1 April 2022 (ref: BAC-CO-24062) I am writing to provide you with an update on my department's response to the recommendation "*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*".

My department reconvened the Vascular Clinical Review Panel that developed the referral criteria. The panel members include the clinical heads of vascular units from public health services. In response to your recommendation, the panel reviewed the referral criteria for aortic aneurysm. The updated criteria have been simplified to:

*"Immediately contact the vascular registrar to arrange an urgent vascular assessment for:  
Suspected intact, symptomatic abdominal aortic aneurysm or thoracic aortic aneurysm"*.

My department has begun implementation of the amended criteria, to take effect from 1 November 2022. This requires Primary Health Networks to update the general practice Health Pathway guides and inform general practices of the changes. My department will inform health services so they can inform their clinicians and make any necessary changes to systems to accept referrals. The state-wide referral criteria website has been updated, but not yet made live, ahead of the upcoming changes to the wording [Not yet in use Aortic aneurysm | src.health.vic.gov.au](http://src.health.vic.gov.au)

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](mailto:Sylvia.Barry@health.vic.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**Professor Euan M Wallace AM**  
Secretary

19/08/2022