

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

TRIM: D24-43686

Coroner Ingrid Giles  
Coroners Court of Victoria

Via email: [team11@courts.vic.gov.au](mailto:team11@courts.vic.gov.au)

Dear Coroner Giles

## **Response to Finding into the death of LI - COR 2019 000537**

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2024 to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) concerning the coronial investigation into the death of LI on 29 January 2019.

Your letter asks that the Commission consider making compliance with real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) a standard to be assessed under the National General Practice Accreditation (NGPA) Scheme. The Commission provides the following comments in response to this recommendation:

1. The Commission administers the NGPA Scheme, which supports the consistent assessment of Australian general practices against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for general practices (the Standards).
2. The RACGP develops the Standards against which general practices are assessed for accreditation. These Standards were developed with the purpose of “improving the quality and safety of health services. The Standards also support general practices in identifying and addressing any gaps in their systems and processes”.
3. The Commission does not have oversight of the development or contents of the RACGP Standards.
4. With regards to RTPM systems, the Commission has been developing national implementation resources for prescribers and pharmacists to support its use in clinical practice.
5. Development of the resources was supported by a working group comprising representatives from all state and territory health departments, the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Digital Health Agency. The working group was established in March 2023 and concluded in July 2024 and provided advice to ensure alignment of the resources with state or territory legislation.
6. The final suite of implementation resources is expected to be published in late August 2024.
7. The resources will highlight key messages to all prescribers and pharmacists including:
  - a. The role of RTPM as a tool that supports clinicians to identify and manage clinical safety risks when prescribing or dispensing monitored medicines.
  - b. RTPM systems should be accessed as part of the clinical decision-making process (and not limited to instances where it is legislated).
  - c. Awareness of the available risk mitigation strategies, support services and referral pathways
8. The Commission has welcomed collaboration with RACGP for the promotion of the published resources.

I hope this information is of use to you. Should you wish to discuss this response, please contact my office [REDACTED]

The Commission values the work of the Coroners Court and appreciates the opportunity to consider how comments and recommendations may help us to improve the safety and quality of healthcare.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Duggan', written in a cursive style.

Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care**

20 August 2024