



the women's
the royal women's hospital

ABN 62 787 822 077

Locked Bag 300
Cnr Grattan St & Flemington Rd
Parkville VIC 3052 Australia

Tel +61 3 8345 2000
www.thewomens.org.au

8 April 2025

Declan McGavin
Coroner's Solicitor
Coroners Court of Victoria

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Declan

**Coronial Investigation into the death of Amir Iran
COR 2020 004409**

We refer to the above matter and the finding into death without inquest handed down on 29 January 2025.

We confirm that pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), the Coroner has made two recommendations. On behalf of The Royal Women's Hospital (the Hospital) we provide the following information for the Coroner in relation to each of the recommendations.

1. That the Royal Women's Hospital, PIPER and Safer Care Victoria review their guidelines relating to surfactant to ensure prompt administration to newborns who require intubation for respiratory distress and that initial and repeat doses accord with the latest available evidence bearing in mind interstate and European guidelines and the manufacturer's user guide.

In consultation with PIPER and Safer Care Victoria, the Hospital is in the process of reviewing the available evidence in relation to the administration of surfactant, particularly for term infants and considering whether the Hospital's Respiratory Support - Surfactant Administration Procedure (the Guideline) needs to be updated.

'Surfactant for term infants' was most recently discussed at a Neonatal Advisory Group meeting on 27 March 2025. Each of the Level 5 and Level 6 neonatal units in attendance, including PIPER, have agreed that they would review the available evidence within their teams locally and reconvene later in the year to discuss their findings, with the aim of attempting to reach a consensus for a statewide approach to the administration of surfactant, in particular for term infants, where surfactant is indicated.

As part of these discussions, the Hospital is seeking to understand what dosing regimes for surfactant are currently used by other Level 5 and Level 6 neonatal units in Victoria and whether practices need to change based on the best available evidence. This will ensure that there is a considered and evidence-based approach to the administration of surfactant for both pre-term and term infants.

2. That parents of newborns be informed of the importance of and encouraged to notify carers in relation to any changes in colour or breathing, supported by visual signs to aid education.

The Hospital has a Patient Initiated MET Procedure (the Procedure), which was in place in 2020 and has since been updated. This Procedure aims to ensure timely review and appropriate response in the event of any parental or carer concerns, or deterioration in the condition of newborns. A copy of the current version of the Procedure is **attached**.

As part of the Procedure, there are laminated patient information posters on each bedside locker which outline the steps that can be taken to escalate care if a parent or carer is worried. Posters have also been installed in all of the inpatient wards, patient bathrooms and a number of outpatient areas and this information has been included within the "Your Stay at The Women's" booklet. Parents and carers are routinely oriented to the patient information posters on admission to the Hospital.

The Hospital regularly reviews the Procedure to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully



Danielle Corden
General Counsel

