



Department of Health

Secretary

13 DEC 2012

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Ms Kate Doherty
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11
Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Doherty

Court Reference: COR 2007 0595 Holly South

I am writing in response to your letter dated 27 September 2012 regarding coronial recommendations made in the above case directed to the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH). The Department of Health (the department) has consulted with RCH on their plans to address the issues outlined in the five recommendations. Enclosed is an interim report from RCH that summarises activities that have been completed or are in progress relating to the recommendations.

If you require further information please contact Ms Theresa Williamson, Acting Manager Quality and safety Programs, telephone 9096 7258.

Yours sincerely

Dr Pradeep Philip
Secretary

Enc: Royal Children's Hospital interim report – COR 2007 0595



Feedback to Department of Health on Case 2007 0595

Recommendation	Action November 2012
<p>Cardiac Services and Ambulance Victoria to meet to discuss the management of children with complex cardiac conditions by paramedics when they are or may be at risk of developing dehydration or cyanosis</p>	<p>A meeting has been held with Ambulance Victoria and representatives from The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Cardiac Service, Emergency Department (ED) and Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) to discuss the role of paramedics in the management of patients with complex cardiac conditions. <i>The card</i> has been revised to be more generally applicable.</p>
<p>If proactive role for paramedics identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum of understanding to be developed • <i>The card</i> to include 'Guidelines for ambulance paramedics' 	<p>The need for a memorandum of understanding was discussed but not felt to be appropriate.</p>
<p>Alert to be placed in EDIS (Emergency Department Information System) for all children with complex cardiac conditions who have been issued with <i>the card</i></p>	<p>A review is being conducted to ensure all children with complex cardiac conditions who have been issued with the <i>card</i> have an alert entered in the EDIS.</p>
<p>Emergency Department staff to be trained in the use of <i>the card</i> and associated expectations</p>	<p>In future, the alert will also be forwarded to the relevant ambulance service, to create "location of interest" within system to flag with additional information for paramedics</p> <p>The <i>card's</i> primary target is other hospitals/healthcare providers where staff may not be familiar with this patient group.</p> <p>Discussions in progress with the RCH ED, including the importance of senior staff input into the management of complex and high risk patients in the ED, and changes to the patient flow in the new department to facilitate this oversight. Senior medical staff in department experienced with complex cardiac patients. Existence of <i>card</i> to be included in orientation of new staff to the ED.</p>

The card referred to is held by parents of children with complex cardiac conditions and outlines management and escalation of care if the child presents to an ED.