

Northern Health

Your Ref: COR 2018 3542

14 September 2020

BY EMAIL ONLY

Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagah Street
Southbank, VIC 3006

Email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Registrar

Re: Finding into the death of Baby AA (Finding)

I refer to the Finding of Coroner Hawkins dated 29 June 2020. In accordance with section 72(3) and 72(4) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), please find below Northern Health's response to the Recommendation made by Her Honour.

I confirm that Northern Health has accepted Her Honour's Recommendation and reviewed the procedures/guidelines of both the Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital, in relation to alerting clinicians of abnormal/unexpected coagulation results in children aged under 12 years, and what is to occur in the event of contaminated or unreliable results.

As a result of the review, I can confirm that the Northern Pathology Victoria *Abnormal results for clinician notification* document has been updated. The update includes the addition of further haematology results that require clinician notification and amendments to other result parameters. I also confirm that the *results escalation procedure* in the Northern Health Procedure, *Pathology - Critical Abnormal Results / Escalation* has been reviewed, however it was determined that no changes are required as to how staff are notified of an inpatient critical/abnormal result. I do however wish to inform the Court, that since this incident the *Pathology - Critical Abnormal Results / Escalation* Procedure has been amended to include expected response times for escalation of results and what happens if there is no response, and updated notification pathways for critical or abnormal results.

On behalf of Northern Health, I would like to thank Coroner Hawkins for providing the opportunity to demonstrate Northern Health's commitment to continuous organisation improvement.

Yours sincerely



Siva Sivarajah
Chief Executive

Cc: Dr John Ferguson – Chief Medical Officer
Dr Bill Shearer – Executive Director, Transformation Quality and Safety
Richard Laufer – Chief Legal Officer

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Epping Vic 3076

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