



Department of Health

Secretary

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20 JAN 2010

Mr Mark Roberts
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 1, 436 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Roberts

Court Reference: 2539/05 Timothy Jack Wood

I am writing in response to your letter dated 22 December 2009 in relation to a coronial recommendation made on the above case;

That the Department of Health give consideration to preparing and disseminating clinical practice guidelines, similar to those available in NSW, for placement in all hospitals and facilities likely to be required to assess or manage children with acute croup.

In his findings the Coroner notes he makes this recommendation in the absence of his knowledge whether there are similar guidelines already in place in Victoria.

The Royal Children's Hospital has developed paediatric clinical practice guidelines which are readily available on their website. This site is considered the statewide paediatric clinical practice guideline reference site, and is utilised by all Victorian (and other states, as well as internationally) health services to support them in the management of paediatric patients.

The guideline for acute croup was in fact in place at the time of this event, and has been subsequently reviewed to ensure its currency; the guidelines are available on line at;

<http://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/index.cfm>

If you require further information please contact Mr Deane Wilks, Manager, Quality and Safety Programs on 9096 7916 or email deane.wilks@health.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

FRAN THORN
Secretary