



Mercy Health

Care first

MEMO

To:	Clinical staff – Mercy Mental Health
From:	Dean Stevenson – Clinical Services Director
CC:	
Date:	25 August 2021
Re:	Findings from the Inquest into the death of Mr Christopher Dewhurst

The Coroner delivered her findings into the death of Mr Christopher Dewhurst on 28 May 2021 following an inquest held from 23 June to 25 June 2020.

I am writing to address the recommendation that Mercy Mental Health take steps to discourage the practice of completing retrospective documentation particularly in respect of risk assessments by providing training that is repeated periodically, on the principles that contemporaneous documentation in the health care setting should be an effective means of communication and summary of key findings and important recommendations to the clinician of the contemporaneous circumstances and of the importance emphasised as they are legal documents.

The recommendation is a timely reminder of general standards in clinical practice where it is expected that clinician complete their clinical notes and risk assessments as soon as possible after completion of the clinical work.

It is understood that during times of very high demand and critical incidents completion of relevant clinical notes may be delayed. Please ensure however that these notes are completed by the end of your working day and absolutely not later than 24 hours after such events.

The Learning and Development Team is developing a training package in the form of a slide pack. This will be known as the Clinical Document Standards and is linked to the Mercy Health procedure addressing document standards known as the **Health and Clinical Documentation Procedure**.

You will be informed when this package is available to support your learning. In the interim I urge you to re-familiarise yourselves with the above mentioned procedure which is located in PROMPT.

Thank you
Dean Stevenson

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Mercy Mental Health

PO Box 2083, Footscray Vic 3011 Phone: +61 3 9928 7444 Fax: +61 3 9687 7130 mercyhealth.com.au ABN 74 762 230 429

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