



Secretary

Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: 1300 650 172
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.health.vic.gov.au
DX 210081

BAC-CO-18883

Coroner Audrey Jamieson
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner Jamieson

Thank you for your letter regarding your findings on the death of Samantha Leech and your recommendation to my Department to expedite our review of the inclusion of pregabalin in SafeScript (Coroner's reference: COR 2019 7144).

As always in cases like this, I was deeply saddened to learn the circumstances of Samantha's death. I send my sincere condolences to her family and friends.

I accept your recommendation to review the circumstances of Samantha's death, including but not limited to the ease with which Samantha obtained significant quantities of pregabalin under different aliases.

With regards to your second recommendation, I can advise that the literature review looking at including pregabalin in SafeScript is already in progress. I expect to receive the completed review by the end of this year. Next steps will be informed by the review's findings.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Stefan Tulloch, Acting Chief Officer, Medicines and Poisons Regulation at the Department of Health on 0431 245 803 or Stefan.tulloch@health.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Professor Euan M Wallace AM
Secretary

26/10/2021