



ANZCA
FPM

28 January 2022

Will Doolan
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Doolan

Investigation into the death of Mr XH (Ref COR 2019 001998)

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October 2021 that included a copy of Deputy State Coroner Caitlin English's Finding without inquest into the death of XH. I am replying on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists in my capacity as the Chair of the college's Safety and Quality Committee.

Deputy State Coroner English made a recommendation that our college "... consider the establishment of guidelines emphasising the use of End Tidal Carbon Dioxide in Endotracheal Tube placement."

End-tidal carbon dioxide (ETCO₂) monitoring is a sensitive indicator of lung ventilation. One of the critical reasons for inability to ventilate the lungs is misplacement of the endotracheal tube, which will be reflected in an absent or very low ETCO₂ trace.

Our college develops and maintains professional documents to promote quality and safety in all domains of anaesthesia practice. They define the college's requirements for training and for hospitals providing such training, they provide guidance on standards of anaesthesia practice, and convey the college's position on particular matters.

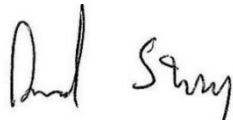
Reference to capnography, which is one of the means of monitoring ETCO₂ appears in several college professional documents:

- PG18(A) *Guideline on monitoring during anaesthesia* on page 3, item 6.2.2
<https://www.anzca.edu.au/getattachment/0c2d9717-fa82-4507-a3d6-3533d8fa844d/PS18-Guideline-on-monitoring-during-anaesthesia#page=>
- PG18(A)BP *Guideline on monitoring during anaesthesia Background Paper*, page 2, item 4.3 <https://www.anzca.edu.au/getattachment/d2ef10af-bfad-4e1a-8e6d-cdb4d7555cc8/PS18BP-Guideline-on-monitoring-during-anaesthesia-Background-Paper#page=>
- PG56(A)BP *Guideline on equipment to manage difficult airways, Background Paper*, page 5, item 5.1.6 as well as Figure 3 on page 12
<https://www.anzca.edu.au/getattachment/9ef4cd97-2f02-47fe-a63a-9f74fa7c68ac/PS56BP-Guideline-on-equipment-to-manage-difficult-airways-Background-Paper#page=>

We regularly highlight clinical issues for the attention of anaesthetists through our quarterly publication, the ANZCA Bulletin, and can include discussion of this matter in an upcoming edition.

On behalf of our college, I thank Deputy State Coroner English for making this recommendation to our college. Should you require any further information, please contact our college staff via email to sq@anzca.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Story'.

Professor David Story
Chair, Safety and Quality Committee