



04 April 2025

Niels Gabriels
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Support Services
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner's Registrar Gabriels

Re: Court reference COR 2023 000240 – Investigation into the death of Kevin Harris

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Coroners Court of Victoria for the letter dated 14 January regarding the Investigation into the death of Kevin Harris.

Requested response to the following recommendation:

In the interests of promoting public health and safety and with the aim of preventing like deaths, I recommend that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners consider the creation and publication of a clinical guideline for the diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of venous thromboembolism for patients in the general practice setting.

RACGP Response pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act:

The RACGP would like to thank Coroner Jamieson for the opportunity to respond to the finding into death without inquest, COR 2023 0000240 and the related investigation into the death of Kevin John Harris.

Thank you for your recommendation regarding the development of clinical guidelines for the diagnosis, prophylaxis, and treatment of venous thromboembolism (VTE) within the general practice setting.

The RACGP out-of-practice education program for GP registrars is dedicated to learners (registrars) achieving attributes that are best delivered via face-to-face sessions and focusing on attitude and value development, peer benchmarking, critical analysis and process reviews, skills acquisition, and role modelling.

Specific contextual topics, such as thromboembolism, may be nominated to be included in the educational program once the registrar small groups have been established at the commencement of a training semester. The topics chosen are based upon the registrar small groups' identified learning needs and priorities. This is a nationally consistent process.

Population Health and the Context of General Practice is the third unit and this addresses and includes preventative health (of which prophylaxis would be included) So in summary this area would be addressed nationally in all registrar educational programs.



While we acknowledge the importance of this issue, we do not currently produce specific guidelines on the management of VTE. Instead, General Practitioners (GPs) are encouraged to seek out evidence-based guidance from a variety of reputable sources, including Australian and internationally produced clinical guidelines, as well as academic journals. There is already a wealth of existing guidance freely available on this topic.

The RACGP has limited resources and, as such, must focus our efforts on priority areas that have the greatest impact on public health, considering factors such as prevalence and significant information gaps. Although VTE is a critical concern, we must direct our resources toward other clinical issues with broader or more immediate implications for general practice.

That said, we appreciate your input and will take the opportunity to share your report with our members to raise awareness about VTE prevention and management. In the meantime, we would like to draw your attention to some relevant resources that the RACGP has made available to our members, which include:

- [Venous Thromboembolism Overview](#)
- [Anticoagulation in General Practice](#)
- [Deep Vein Thrombosis: Risks and Diagnosis](#)
- [Venous Thromboembolism: Key Considerations](#)
- [Clot Prevention: Common Questions about Medications](#)
- [New Oral Anticoagulants and Perioperative Management](#)
- [New guidelines from the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand for the diagnosis and management of venous thromboembolism](#)
- [Thrombosis & Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand \(THANZ\) Guidelines](#)
- [Venous thromboembolism \(VTE\) treatment](#) (paywall restricted)

These resources provide valuable insights and clinical guidance on VTE that GPs can use to support their practice.

We hope that this information is useful. If you have any further questions about the above, please contact RACGP Victoria State Manager Ally Francis [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Dr Anita Muñoz
Chair, Victoria Faculty