

Inquest into the death of Joshua Ryan Statis

Joshua Ryan Statis died on 16 November 2015 at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital from a cardiac haemorrhage due to a surgically repaired congenital aortic stenosis.

Acting Coroner Ainslie Kirkegaard delivered her findings of inquest on 24 October 2018.

The departments named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

Recommendation 1

Children's Health Queensland consider developing a wound inspection guideline for the cardiac surgical service to ensure consistency in documenting wound features that may be indicative of infection, such as the nature and extent of any wound ooze, whether it is odorous, whether there is redness or swelling or hot areas and the location of affected areas, and consistency in documenting the wound management plan and its implementation. The service's efforts to incorporate the use of wound photographs can be incorporated in this exercise.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is in progress.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health

On 2 June 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

The Children's Health Queensland Cardiac Surgical Service now documents the wound features for every patient in the medical record daily. A cycle of audit of this process was piloted in 2018 and will be fully implemented in 2019.

It is planned to develop a mobile device application to support photographic documentation of wound status in 2019 with an associated guideline.

Recommendation 2

Children's Health Queensland formally review the cardiac surgery theatre team call-in process with a view to assessing the reasonableness and relative clinical merit of the surgical fellow call-in responsibilities with reference to call-in processes operating in comparable paediatric cardiac surgical centres.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health

On 2 June 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

The Children's Health Queensland cardiac surgical code extracorporeal membrane oxygenation ECMO¹ work instruction was reviewed and a formalised process for out of hours emergencies was developed. The work instruction provides guidelines for the emergency activation and call-in of the cardiac surgical team in the event of:

- emergency chest reopening post cardiac surgery

¹ Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is a form of life support that involves oxygenation of blood outside the body

- emergency return to cardiac theatre (with cardiopulmonary bypass)
- emergent initiation of extracorporeal life support.

The work instruction specifies who is authorised to activate a code ECMO and identifies the essential and non-essential group members to be called-in and their role responsibilities. A flowchart was developed for each department within the division of Critical Care, clearly identifying the delegation of responsibilities for managing the call-in process. The work instruction has been reviewed to ensure it conforms to national and international best practice.