

Summary: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future death for **Riya Hirani** (died 28.12.22)

This is a brief summary of the regulation 28 coroners report into the death of *Riya Hirani* from which you can review the coroner recommendations to health care and consider whether there are changes you could implement in your local NHS trust to address them

Clinical summary

9-year-old female, no significant health issues.

- Riya died from hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy, due to cardiac arrest, secondary to invasive group A strep and influenza B
- Riya's mum brought her to hospital the day before her cardiac arrest as she believed Riya was very sick
- Assessed by junior doctor who diagnosed viral URTI and discharged home with safety-netting

Coroner's Recommendations

- Riya's mother clearly expressed concern about their rapidly deteriorating child but there had been no escalation of care, specifically, no second opinion sort.
- There are similarities between this case and that of Martha Mills and therefore, this case should be considered when discussing introducing "Martha's rule" – legally requiring NHS hospitals to give quick access to a second clinical opinion on patient/parental request.

Key Themes

- Parents and carers should be empowered to know how to seek a second clinical opinion if they are concerned their child is rapidly deteriorating.
- There is growing evidence to suggest there are grounds for introducing "Martha's rule"

Local Improvement suggestions from this report:

- Consider trialling "Call 4 Concern" – a patient and relative initiated critical care outreach scheme where concerned parents and carers can call a number seeking a second opinion if they are worried their child is rapidly deteriorating. This has already been implemented in several trusts around the UK.
- Provide further education to junior doctors that parental concern should be taken seriously and if raised, a senior review for the patient should be sort

For full information visit:

https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Riya-Hirani-Prevention-of-future-deaths-report-2023-0339_Publication.pdf or follow the QR code

