

AMANDA DANA TAUAI

Amanda Tauai died on 17 March 2012 at Royal Perth Hospital following transfer from Paraburdoo Hospital, where she had been an inpatient for several days. The initial diagnosis was gastroenteritis and ongoing clinical treatment was in line with this, rather than bacterial infection. The coroner reviewed the management of the deteriorating patient and threshold for the administering of antibiotics in a remote setting. Amanda was 21 years of age.

The Department of Health's Coronial Review Committee reviewed these findings and directed the recommendations to the appropriate stakeholders for review and response.

The WACHS has included details of this case in their August 2015 publication of *Patient Safety Matters* which is intended to share lessons from adverse events, communicate outcomes and emerging trends; and, prompt reflection and discussion amongst clinical staff. This edition asks clinicians in remote locations to consider lowering the threshold for treatment with broad spectrum antibiotics to account for the reduced capacity to resuscitate patients with septic shock. WACHS have also implemented an audit program to review the adult observation and response chart; the purpose of which is to inform and generate improvements in the recording of physiological observations as specified in the patient's monitoring/care plan, and in the appropriate recognition of, and escalation following, a patient's deterioration.

PathWest has advised WACHS that wall chart information will be regularly and reliably updated in the Paraburdoo phlebotomy room. This works in conjunction with collection guidelines and instructions and PathWest's Online Test Directory.

Of the three recommendations made by the coroner, all three have now been reviewed and actioned appropriately and marked as complete.