

CLINICAL CASE NOTE REVIEW – FINAL REPORT**A Final Note to the Inquiry Panel from the authors, further to consideration of the formal written comments on the Final Report**

We have considered the formal written comments submitted to the Inquiry in response to the CCNR Final Report. Our task as authors was to draw together the factual results of the case reviews carried out by the multidisciplinary clinical teams. Our role was then to draw out themes relating to the overall adequacy of care, rather than focus on the details of individual cases. To do this, we used not only the statistical analysis of the cases, but also the written comments given both on the case review report sheets and later by the team coordinators (See part VII of the CCNR Final Report). In doing so, we recognised that the assigned grades of 1 - 4 were not absolute but represented a spectrum of clinical judgement. Hence in considering the Repeat and Requested reviews we felt justified in grouping the grades as to whether care may or may not have affected the outcome.

Throughout the Report we have acknowledged potential weaknesses in, and criticisms of the Review process (see especially parts II and VIII of the Report). However the methodology of the CCNR is unique - it was carefully planned with both statistical and clinical advice and involved a large cross section of professional peers. It allowed, as far as possible, for the difficulties anticipated in a review of a particularly complex area of healthcare (see para 7 of the Report).

Therefore we believe that the conclusions drawn are a fair reflection of the judgements of the review teams. The question of what weight to place upon the CCNR, as with other evidence, will be a matter for the Panel.

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