

17 November 2009

Labtests Statement Re: ADHB Investigation Report – Hypoglycaemic Event In The Community

Labtests has been provided with a copy of the report "Hypoglycaemic event in the community" prepared by the Auckland District Health Board. At the outset Labtests conveys our deepest condolences to the patient's family. Labtests has considered the findings of the report. Labtests has been advised by the investigators compiling the report that the matters relating to the laboratory testing of the patient identified in the report did not directly lead to her tragic death.

Labtests investigation of this matter has been lead by Healthscope's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael Coglin. Through the ADHB investigation Labtests understands that the patient's final illness was of 10 days duration from when she contacted her GP's practice nurse and the district nurse on 2 September and when she died on 12 September.

Labtests involvement in her care was over a 22-hour period between when her blood was collected at 0925 on 8 September and when the tests were reported to the GP at 0705 on 9 September.

The specimen was collected in a timely way after a home visit was requested by the GP's practice nurse and the turnaround time for reporting of these tests (22 hours) was well within the allowed 48 hours as specified in the Labtests/ADHBs contract. Labtests reported the significantly abnormal test results to the GP at 0705 on 9 September.

Labtests had no further involvement in the patient's care. The patient was conveyed to hospital approximately 31 hours later. Labtests has no knowledge of events that occurred in this crucial 31-hour period.

The recommendations in the report relating to the laboratory testing matters were identified in the course of Labtests' own investigation into this case and have been implemented. Labtests cooperated fully in the investigation and will also assist the Coroner in his independent investigation".

Labtests will be making no further comment on this matter.