

Scottish Government submission of 24 August 2023

PE2016/C: Raise awareness of Thrombosis in Scotland

Thank you for your correspondence on 27th July 2023 regarding the Petition PE2016. I am responding as Deputy Director for the Planning and Quality Division, which has responsibility for public awareness campaigns related to patient safety.

The number of deaths associated with thrombosis-related conditions is a very broad one, as it essentially includes any condition caused by a blood clot forming at that site. It is not always possible to tell whether the clot formed at that site (thrombosis), or travelled from elsewhere (thromboembolism), hence the categories of 'all due to' and 'many due to' thrombosis used in the [PQ answer \(S6W-07943\)](#).

The data that was used in response to the petition is more specific to venous thrombosis and thromboembolism. In this group the blood clot has formed within the vein, and then either caused a problem where it is (venous thrombosis), or travelled elsewhere in the body and caused a problem (venous thromboembolism).

In addition, there is an overlap between the three conditions, deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pulmonary embolism (PE) and venous thromboembolism (VTE) when listed as in the PQ answer. Cases of PE may develop from DVT therefore a single death may be coded under both DVT and PE. There is also some overlap between DVT and VTE for the same reason. As a result of this you can't add together the underlying cause deaths.

In summary, the PQ answer includes all conditions that are all or mostly due to a blood clot forming in that location, including both arteries and veins. This therefore includes some of the most common causes of death, for instance myocardial infarction and stroke. The data used in response to the petition reflects clots forming in the veins, and includes instances when these travel and cause pulmonary embolism. From the context that we understand the petitioner is wanting to raise awareness on, the figures quoted in the response to the petition more accurately reflect the number of deaths recorded in Scotland.

Updated material has been provided to clinicians and the guidance available to the general public on NHS Inform on thrombosis was updated in May 2023. The Scottish Government is looking at what further awareness messaging can be taken forward on thrombosis via the Scottish Government's health social media accounts. The issues highlighted by the research found in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), regarding the risks post Covid-19 infection, are being considered.

Planning and Quality Division