Lister Surgicentre statement in full

Dr Mark O'Flynn, Medical Director for Lister Surgicentre, said:

"We can confirm that we have received a copy of the independent review relating to 4 patients that had undergone surgery at the Lister Surgicentre. Out of respect to the bereaved families we remain unable to comment on individual cases.

“The service that the NHS has commissioned at the Lister Surgicentre is a joint care arrangement in which patients that become unwell transfer to the Lister Hospital. The location of the Surgicentre on the Lister hospital site, connected by a link corridor, means that should they be needed specialist care is immediately at hand.

“The Surgicentre does not have a CPAP ventilator because if a patient requires this type of breathing support they are transferred from the Surgicentre to the Trust. CPAP requires specialist skills that are available in the Trust. For the patient in question the clinical observations indicated that there was the need for further support at the time, and they were transferred a short time later to HDU and later into ITU. It was not cited by the reviewer as material in terms of the final outcome.

“Dr Fletcher makes recommendations about the speed of response when specialist care is needed. This was identified by our own investigation and action. This means that if our clinical teams have concerns about the speed of response they more quickly escalate it to a senior manager or myself.

“We have also made a number of other changes over the last four months. These include changes to patient records to make it easier to identify entries by different health professionals. We have also increased with the support of East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust the post-operative input from the clinical team that undertook the patient’s surgery.

“Having received the report we are making sure that there are not any other lessons that we can learn.

"We would like to extend our condolences to the families concerned and recognise the additional anxiety that has been caused due to the media's interest.