



**7 Minute Briefing
"Mrs B"**

The full SAR report and findings can be found here:

In 2018 NE Lincs SAB undertook a SAR into the case of Mrs B, an 80 year old lady living in a Care Home. Mrs B had a history of dementia and multiple falls prior to moving to the home. Her mobility deteriorated and she developed contractures. Events culminated in Mrs B sustaining a fractured femur of unknown origin. This did not heal and was ultimately a contributing factor to her death .

The events began when carers noticed a large lump on Mrs B's left leg whilst providing personal care. On admission to hospital an x-ray demonstrated a displaced fracture. A back-slab was applied and Mrs B returned home. The home offered to move Mrs B to a downstairs room, but family requested she be returned to her room upstairs via a lift with a carer supporting her leg. Mrs B was returned to hospital following the concerns of a physio. The fracture was now found to be open and infected.

Mrs B's family were informed of the intention to undertake a SAR and were offered the opportunity to contribute. The family kindly shared their experience of events and any concerns, which were fed into the review

The SAR process also found that the arrangements around Lasting Powers of Attorney were not widely known or understood. All Care Homes and GP Practices need to be aware that clarification should be sought from the Office of the Public Guardian where there is any doubt and that a copy should be obtained from the family member who holds the LPA and verified.

Effective discharge arrangements were also identified as an issue . communicate all relevant information relating to the patient's condition, limitations of interventions, skin integrity, referrals to therapists and pain management.

Lessons included recognition of the need to re-assess moving and handling care plans for patients with deteriorating mobility and contractures prompting a referral to OT for assessment. This case also highlighted the need for specialist equipment to be used for moving and handling these patients.