Unexpected Fatality Review
DOC Corrective Action Plan

Unexpected Fatality UFR-22-020

Report to the Legislature

As required by RCW 72.09.770

October 10, 2022

DOC Corrective Action, Publication Number 600-PL001

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Legislative Directive

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5119 (2021)

Unexpected Fatality Review Governance

RCW 72.09.770 requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to convene an Unexpected Fatality Review (UFR) committee and meeting in any case "in which the death of an incarcerated individual is unexpected, or any case identified by the Office of the Corrections Ombuds." The department is also required to issue a report on the results of the review within 120 days of the fatality and, within 10 days of completion of the review, develop an associated corrective action plan to implement any recommendations made by the review team. The statute took effect July 25, 2021.

The "primary purpose of the unexpected fatality review shall be the development of recommendations to the department and legislature regarding changes in practices or policies to prevent fatalities and strengthen safety and health protections for prisoners in the custody of the department."

"'Unexpected fatality review' means a review of any death that was not the result of a diagnosed or documented terminal illness or other debilitating or deteriorating illness or condition where the death was anticipated and includes the death of any person under the jurisdiction of the department, regardless of where the death occurred. A review must include an analysis of the root cause or causes of the unexpected fatality, and an associated corrective action plan for the department to address identified root causes and recommendations made by the unexpected fatality review team under this section."

Unexpected Fatality Review Committee Report

The department issued the UFR committee report 22-020 on September 30, 2022 (DOC publication 600-SR001). This document includes the required corrective action plan. The department is required to implement the corrective actions within 120 days of the publication of the committee report.

Corrective Action Plan

CAP ID Number:	UFR-22-020-1
Finding:	Stroke risk reduction not maximized due to elevated cholesterol results not being addressed by the primary care provider.
Root Cause:	Lack of a chronic care management model, accepted care pathways, and communications system to support team-based care.
Recommendation:	Educate DOC medical providers on accepted care pathways for stroke prevention.
Corrective Action:	Utilize contracted medical consultant to conduct statewide clinical education for DOC medical providers on managing stroke risk followed up by development and deployment of accepted stroke prevention and care pathways.
Expected Outcome:	Improved care by maximizing management for individuals at increased risk of stroke.