# Failures in Emergency Medical Care Lead to Tragic Deaths in Wolverhampton and Margate



**Paramedics in Wolverhampton Miss Heart Attack Signs Leading to Tragic Death**

On January 6th, 2022, 29-year-old Lauren Page Smith from Wolverhampton phoned 111 after experiencing chest pains and vomiting. A West Midlands ambulance crew attended shortly after; however, they incorrectly assessed her condition and misinterpreted her ECG results, concluding there was no cause for concern. Hours later, Lauren was found dead on her bathroom floor by her mother, Emma Carrington, with her two-year-old daughter by her side. A post-mortem revealed she had suffered a sudden heart attack due to a blood clot in the lung.

An inquest in November 2022 identified "gross failings" in the care provided by the West Midlands Ambulance Service. The service has since admitted liability and apologized to the family. Emma Carrington expressed deep sorrow over the loss and called for improvements in paramedic practices.

**Failures in Care of Six-Year-Old Maya Siek in Margate**

In another case, six-year-old Maya Siek died at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital in Margate, Kent, on December 21, 2022. She had been sent home two days prior with antibiotics for suspected tonsillitis. Subsequent visits revealed diagnoses of sepsis and influenza, but the inquest highlighted failures in her treatment and communication among hospital staff. Despite these issues, the coroner concluded there was no direct causative link between the hospital's actions and Maya's death. Maya's parents have expressed profound disappointment with the care provided.

These tragic incidents underscore the importance of accurate diagnosis and effective communication in emergency medical care.