



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-019

Date: 3rd May 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8th April 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding non-compliance with Patient Safety Alerts Issued by NHS Improvement.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 In the latest report on ‘Data on Patient Safety Alert Compliance’ published by NHS Improvement in March 2019, we note that several NHS Trusts have not signalled that they are fully compliant with one or more Patient Safety Alerts by the completion deadline.

The provision of safe care is a top priority for ‘Action Against Medical Accidents’ (AVMA) and we wish to remind NHS Trusts of the importance of implementing patient safety alerts in a timely manner.

In the latest compliance report your Trust has not signalled completion of guidance concerning the following Patient Safety Alerts:

Alert title	Alert reference	Issue date	Completion deadline date	Status at 4 February 2019
Restricted use of open systems for injectable medication	NHS/PSA/D/2016/008	07-Sep-2016	07-Jun-2017	ONGOING
Resources to support safe transition from the Luer connector to NRFit for intrathecal and epidural procedures, and delivery of regional blocks	NHS/PSA/RE/2017/004	11-Aug-2017	11-Dec-2017	ONGOING
Resources to support safer care for patients at risk of autonomic dysreflexia	NHS/PSA/RE/2018/005	25-Jul-2018	25-Jan-2019	ONGOING

Under this FOI request we would like you to provide us with the following information, with dates and details (e.g., committee minutes, emails and other documents) concerning the following:

1. What action the Trust has taken to implement the Alert guidance by the completion deadline?

A1 The Trust has a robust procedure for cascading alerts and requiring confirmation that the alert has been implemented. In some cases, the clinicians involved require additional time to ensure that the alert requirements are met and sustained to ensure patient safety

Q2 Why implementation of the Alert guidance has not occurred by the completion deadline?

A2 As stated above, the Trust has a robust procedure for cascading alerts. The completion of these alerts was delayed by the Clinicians who wished to view the whole process to assure themselves and the Trust that the alert would be fully complied with in a safe and secure manner.

Q3 When will Trust signal full compliance with the Alert guidance?

A3 The 3 Alerts have all been implemented and closed on the system, showing full compliance.

Q4 Have any patient safety incidents concerning the topic of the non-compliant Alert been reported in your Trust since the Alert was published?

A4 No

Q5 How will the process be improved in the future to ensure that Patient Safety Alerts will be implemented by the completion deadline?

A5 In general, the Trust meets its deadlines. However as stated in question two above, there have been occasions when the Trust has undertaken a full review of processes to provide the assurances required. These are taken on a case by case basis and it is not possible to formalise a procedure in these instances.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance