



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-128

Date: 12th June 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 6th June 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Hyperkalaemia patient safety alert.

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 Questions for consideration

In 2018 NHS Improvement issued a Patient Safety Alert (PSA), entitled [Resources to support safe and timely management of hyperkalaemia \(high level of potassium in the blood\)](#) which outlined specific actions for NHS trusts to implement in order to improve safety for patients at risk of hyperkalaemia. The deadline for completion was 8th May 2019. NHS Improvement's recommendations were to:

- 1) Identify a senior clinician in the organisation to lead the response to the alert
- 2) Review or produce local guidance (including key steps or easy reference guides) for the management of hyperkalaemia that aligns with the evidence-based sources highlighted by NHS Improvement
- 3) Ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff including bank and agency staff
- 4) Ensure relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice by revising local training and audit
- 5) Use local communication strategies to make all staff aware that hyperkalaemia is a potentially life-threatening condition and that its timely identification, treatment and monitoring during and beyond initial treatment is essential

I would like to request information which sets out what steps the Trust has taken to implement each of the recommended actions (1 to 5) outlined in the *Management of Hyperkalaemia* PSA. Specifically, I request the following information relating to the PSA:

1. **Has a senior clinician in the Trust been appointed to lead the response to this alert?**

	Your response
If yes, please name the individual	

If no, please specify the reason for the lack of appointment and anticipated timelines for an appointment to be made	
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A1 Please see below:

	Our response
If yes, please name the individual	Dr. Elsayed Consultant Intensivist
If no, please specify the reason for the lack of appointment and anticipated timelines for an appointment to be made	Not applicable

Q2 Has the Trust reviewed existing - or produced new - local guidance for the management of hyperkalaemia?

	Your response
If yes, please share the relevant guidance and provide details of any changes made during the review	
If no, please specify why this has not taken place and any future plans to do so	

A2 Please see below:

	Our response
If yes, please share the relevant guidance and provide details of any changes made during the review	Following publication of the alert, the Trust updated the existing guidelines to reflect the new recommendations
If no, please specify why this has not taken place and any future plans to do so	Not applicable

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Q3 Has the Trust taken steps to ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff?

	Your response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken	
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future plans to do so	

A3 Please see below:

	Our response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken	The guidelines are available via the Trust intranet site. In addition, each ward / area has been provided with a laminated version of the guidelines. Each copy is displayed by the blood gas machine for easy reference
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future plans to do so	Not applicable

Q4 Has the Trust revised local training and audit to ensure that relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice?

	Your response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken and signpost to updated documents	
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future timelines in doing so	

A4 Please see below:

	Our response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken and signpost to	Although the training does not form part of the Trust Statutory and Mandatory training

updated documents	<p>requirements, a training session has been developed by the AKI Advanced Nurse Practitioners. This is available to staff on request or as a recommended learning action following an incident.</p> <p>A comprehensive clinical audit programme has been developed to provide assurance against compliance with the guidelines and standard operating procedures. Updates on audit progress and outcomes will be shared via the AKI Working Group.</p>
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future timelines in doing so	Not applicable

Q5 Has the Trust used local communication strategies to raise staff awareness of hyperkalaemia diagnosis and treatment?

	Your response
If yes, please specify the measures taken	
If no, please specify the reasons why and any future plans to do so	

A5 Please see below:

	Our response
If yes, please specify the measures taken	In addition to the National Alert, the Trust has developed a local alert to raise awareness. The local alert is available on the intranet and has been advertised via the 'News' section of the Trust communication bulletin
If no, please specify the reasons why and any future plans to do so	Not applicable

*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.

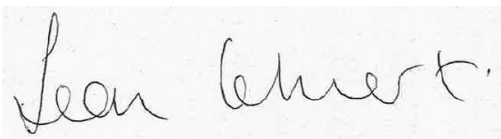
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager