

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-756

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
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Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 21st March 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 13th March 2019 (received into our office 14th March) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding palliative care.

On 14th March 2019 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

Q1 and Q2, what do you mean by “were placed on palliative care” –? Is this when the decision was made to stop the usual treatment and to start palliative care?

Q3, Can you clarify what do you mean by “what were their original admission/diagnosis of these patients”

On 15th March 2019 you replied via email the following:

“Q1 & Q2, what do you mean by “were placed on palliative care” –? Is this when the decision was made to stop the usual treatment and to start palliative care?”

– Yes, it is when the decision was made to stop the usual treatment and to start palliative care.

Q3, Can you clarify what do you mean by “what were their original admission/diagnosis of these patients”

– By “what were their original admission/diagnosis of these patients”, I mean, what were these patients original reason for admission. You may also include the cause of their death too, if possible.”

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 year of 2018, how many patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 were placed on palliative care?

A1 Information not held, however please note: Patients are generally not “placed on Palliative Care” in the sense of there being a discrete cut off when active management stops and palliation starts. Patients may receive Palliative Care alongside active treatment at various stages of their illness. As there is often not a discrete moment when this occurs the Trust doesn’t and would not be able to record this data.

Q2 In the year of 2018, how many patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 that were placed on palliative care passed away?

A2 As answer 1

Q3 In the year of 2018, patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 that were placed on palliative care who passed away – what were the original admissions/diagnosis' of these patients?

A3 As answer 1

Q4 When did your Trust stop using the Liverpool Care Pathway guidelines?

A4 2013

Q5 In the year of 2018, how many patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 were placed on an end of life care plan that followed the guidelines of NICE?

A5 We use an End of Life care plan that follows NICE guidelines. However, we do not keep a central record of when this is started for individual patients so it is not possible to retrieve this information.

Q6 Does your Trust use palliative sedation on patients over the age of 75?

A6 In UHNM we use sedative medications in the management of agitation/restlessness at the end of life.

Q7 Did your Trust receive financial incentive for placing patients on the Liverpool Care Pathway from 1990 to 2013?

A7 No

Q8 How much financial incentive did your Trust receive for placing patients on the Liverpool Care Pathway from 1990 to 2013?

A8 None

*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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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