

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-566b

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

Date: 21st January 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 10th January 2020 regarding our release of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) for prescribing data for CBPMs

You emailed the following:

"Many thanks for your email. I am writing to request clarification on your response that the Trust "does not use any of the above drugs; therefore this request is not applicable" Please could you explain whether there is a Trust policy to not use or fund these drugs or whether that there have simply been no prescriptions issued in the time period?"

The Trust provides specialist neurological services for multiple sclerosis and epilepsy and specialist oncological services. There are now cannabis-based drugs that are licensed and recommended by NICE for use in indications relevant to these specialist services, if the patient has not adequately responded to other treatments (Sativex for moderate-to-severe spasticity in MS, Epidiolex for reducing seizures in Dravet syndrome and Lennox Gastaut syndrome and Nabilone for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting). If an authorised prescriber in the Trust believed that it was in a patient's best interests to offer one of these medicines, would they be able to?

Any further information you can provide would be very gratefully received!"

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 Where data is available, please send me:

1. The number of prescriptions issued within the Trust, per month, for the period November 2018 - September 2019, for the following items:

- a. **Sativex**
- b. **Nabilone**
- c. **Epidiolex/Epydiolex**
- d. **Unlicensed cannabis-based products for medicinal use (CBPMs).**

A1 UHNM does not use any of the above drugs; therefore this request is not applicable

Our clarification: There is no Trust policy in place that prohibits the use of the aforementioned medications. No prescriptions have been received into Pharmacy at the point of response.

Q2 Total costs to the Trust associated with prescriptions of unlicensed cannabis-based products for medicinal use over the same time period.

A2 As answer 1

Our clarification: After completion of the necessary implementation period, an authorised prescriber within UHNM would, if believed to be within the patient's best interest, be able to provide access to cannabinoid products in line with the clinical commissioning criteria. Where by UHNM does not meet the specialist criteria, this would be by means of onwards referral to the relevant centre.

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

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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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,



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager

