

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-377

Date: 25th October 2019Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 26th September 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding bowel preparation for colonoscopy.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in questions 3, 4, 11 and 13 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

In addition to the above not all of the information you have requested is recorded in the format you are requiring and would therefore require us to extrapolate information from several systems and create a new report to provide this. The FOI Act covers information held by the Trust, and we are not obliged to create new information in order to answer an FOI request. As well as creating new information, this would also take in excess of the 18 hours allowed for under the FOI Act, and would therefore be exempt under section 12: *cost of compliance is excessive*.

UHNM is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 I would like to make a request for some information relating to bowel preparation for colonoscopy if that is possible. All of the questions refer to colonoscopy procedures performed between 1st January 2018 and 1st January 2019. Please let me know if any of the questions do not appear clear, I am more than happy to further clarify.

What is the first line bowel preparation laxative that is offered to patients undergoing colonoscopy?

- A1 At UHNM Moviprep is first line bowel preparation
- Q2 Do you offer any alternative bowel preparation laxatives for patients undergoing colonoscopy?**
- A2 Picolax is second line bowel preparation only if previous failed procedure with Moviprep or allergic to content of Moviprep.
- Q3 How many patients received each bowel preparation laxative between 1st January 2018- 1st January 2019?**
- A3 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.
- Q4 What were the number of patients receiving each bowel preparation laxative who had inadequate bowel preparation between 1st January 2018- 1st January 2019?**
- A4 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.
- Q5 Are patients undergoing colonoscopy advised to take the bowel preparation at a single time or split over two different times?**
- A5 Patients that are due for admission in the morning take preparation the night before and afternoon patients split the dose as per the attached guidance that is provided to our patients.
- Q6 During the period of 1st January 2018- 1st January 2019, what times were patients advised to consume the bowel preparation for a morning colonoscopy appointment?**
- A6 Over the last 12 months timings have changed to reflect a change in standardising one main bowel preparation. Currently with Moviprep the start time is 6pm and 9pm the night before the procedure as per the attached guidance in answer 5.
- Q7 During the period of 1st January 2018- 1st January 2019, what times were patients advised to consume the bowel preparation for an afternoon colonoscopy appointment?**
- A7 Over the last 12 months timings have changed to reflect a change in standardising one main bowel preparation. Currently with Moviprep the start time is split 6pm and then 8am morning of the procedure.
- Q8 During the period of 1st January 2018- 1st January 2019, what times were patients advised to consume the bowel preparation for an evening colonoscopy appointment?**
- A8 Not applicable to UHNM
- Q9 Are patient's advised to consume a particular diet prior to their colonoscopy? If so what diet are they advised to consume? How many days are they advised to consume it for?**
- A9 Low residue diet 2 days prior to test as per guidance in answer 5 (see attached document)
- Q10 Do any of your patients attend a specific pre assessment clinic after they are referred for colonoscopy, but before they attend on the day of their endoscopy to receive more**

detailed endoscopy information? What is the criteria for referral to this pre assessment clinic?

- A10 Pre assessment is provided to the following cohort. Surveillance patients or Patients that have not been given preparation in a clinical setting or at the time of request or need further advice
- Q11 How many patients are seen in this pre assessment clinic between 1st January 2018- 1st January 2019?**
- A11 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above, however: We have 42 slots per week that patients can access this booked service, however we do also run adhoc clinics as and when the work force dedicates. We also run telephone clinics that pre-assessments that patient level detail is not record in the master patient index. (Section 12/14 exemption)
- Q12 How many colonoscopies did you perform in the last year (1st January 2018- 1st January 2019?)**
- A12 9393 from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2019
- Q13 During the period of 1st January 2018- 1st January 2019:**
- **How many patients were documented as having excellent bowel preparation?**
 - **What was the polyp detection rate in patient with excellent bowel preparation?**
 - **How many patients were documented as having good bowel preparation?**
 - **What was the polyp detection rate in patient with good bowel preparation?**
 - **How many patients were documented as having fair bowel preparation?**
 - **What was the polyp detection rate in patient with fair bowel preparation?**
 - **How many patients were documented as having inadequate bowel preparation?**
 - **What was the polyp detection rate in patient with inadequate bowel preparation?**
- A13 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.

*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.

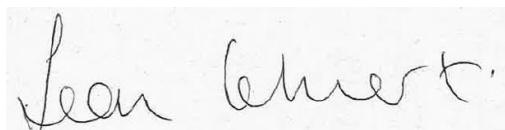
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager