



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-556

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding guidelines

***The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.***

***However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.***

***We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.***

***The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS***

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Can you please provide me with the following documents?**

**1. Your Guideline/Treatment Pathway for the pharmacological management of Heart Failure**

A1 The pharmacological management of heart failure is detailed in UHNM's Medical Guidelines – see chapter 'Acute heart failure' in the file accompanying this response ("UHNM Medical Guidelines 2019-20 – Acute heart failure."). Section 43 exemption as detailed below A3

The SOP for the management of acute heart failure in the ambulatory heart failure clinic settings also accompanies this response (22 AHFU SOP documents 2 of 2).

As the SOP above points out, UHNM heart failure clinicians are guided by relevant NICE guidance on the management of heart failure and follow any associated NICE technology appraisals on medicines used in the treatment of heart failure.

- Chronic heart failure in adults: diagnosis and management NICE guideline [NG106]

- Acute heart failure: diagnosis and management Clinical guideline [CG187]
- Sacubitril valsartan for treating symptomatic chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction Technology appraisal guidance [TA388]
- Ivabradine for treating chronic heart failure Technology appraisal guidance [TA267]

In addition, heart failure clinicians are also guided by European Society of Cardiology guidelines on heart failure which complement NICE guidelines and are considered to be the gold standard recommendations by the UK heart failure clinicians.

Within our local joint medicines formulary, medicines used in heart failure patients have different traffic light statuses which determine which prescriber and in which setting these medicines may be prescribed, initiated, titrated and continued

<https://www.northstaffordshirejointformulary.nhs.uk/>

**Q2 Your Guideline/Treatment Pathway for the pharmacological management of Type 2 Diabetes - pertaining to use of SGLT2, DPP-4 and GLP-1**

A2 Information not held

**Q3 Your Guideline/Treatment Pathway for the pharmacological management of COPD**

A3 The Trust considers your request to be exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as to release this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust. The Trust has applied the public interest test to this request and feels that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**Q4 Your guideline/Treatment Pathway for the pharmacological management of Asthma**

A4 As answer 3

**Q5 Your Guideline/Treatment Pathway for the pharmacological management of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)**

A5 As answer 3

\*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.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

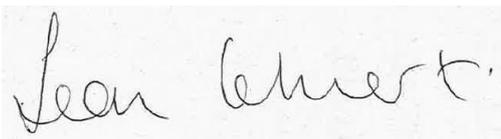
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**