

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-492

Date: 10th November 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 26th October 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Patient Group Directions.

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 Re: Freedom of Information Request – Patient Group Directions in University Hospitals of North Midlands.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My queries pertain to the use, development, and audit of Patient Group Directions (PGDs) within [NHS Trust Name].

Specifically, I am seeking answers to the following questions:

1. General Information:

- a. How many active Patient Group Directions (PGDs) does the Trust currently have in place?**
- b. In which departments or services within the Trust are PGDs most used?**

A1 1a – the Trust currently has 35 active ratified PGDs in place with 27 going through the local, divisional governance process prior to ratification.

1b – The department that uses PGDs the most are in diagnostic radiography due to the limitations regarding independent prescribing.

Q2 Usage of PGDs:

- a. Over the past 3 years, how many patients have been treated under a PGD in the Trust?**
- b. How does the Trust ensure that PGDs are only used by those healthcare professionals competent to do so?**

A2 2a – This information is held locally not corporately.

2b – Medicines management policy MM05 details the training requirements of staff prior to administration of medicines from a PGD which details that the training needs of each health

care professional. There is a training package available on the intranet which all staff must complete prior to using a PGD. . Currently the Trust does not have an electronic prescribing and administration system in place which may enable us in future to identify patients being supplied and / or administered a medicine via a PGD.

Q3 Types of Medications:

- a. **Please provide a list of all medications currently administered under a PGD within the Trust.**
- b. **Are there specific medications that the Trust has deemed unsuitable for PGD use? If so, which ones?**

A3 See below:

3a -

| |
|--|
| salbutamol via spacer devise for children aged 5 and above |
| Maternity influenzae vaccine |
| Dotarem |
| Primovist |
| Gadovist |
| Niopan 300 Iopamidol 61.2%wv |
| Omnipaque 350 mg (Iohexol 350 mg/ml) |
| Omnipaque 300 (Lohexol 300 mg/ml) |
| Diatrizoate Meglumine and Diatrizote sodium (Gastrografin) |
| Iomeron® 300 (Iohexol) Dacrocystography |
| Iomeron® 300 (Iohexol) Hysterosalpingography |
| Iomeron® 300 (Iohexol) Sialography |
| Iomeron® 300 (Iohexol) Computerised Tomography (CT) |
| Iomeron® 350 (Iohexol) Computerised Tomography (CT) |
| Hyoscine-n-butylbromide 20mg injection inMRI |
| Plenvu bowel prep |
| Paracetamol ED |
| omnipaque 300 - dacrocystogram |
| omnipaque 300 - sialogram |
| omnipaque 300 - HSG |
| DR suppositories proctogram |
| Pertussis Vaccine Patient Group Direction (PGD) |
| gastrograffin |

3b –

- **It is not possible to supply or administer dressings or appliances under a PGD**

- It is **not** possible to receive unlicensed medicines under a PGD
- It is **not** possible to administer radiopharmaceuticals under a PGD

Q4 Audit Policy:

- How frequently does the Trust audit the use of PGDs?**
- What measures are in place to ensure the safe and appropriate use of PGDs, based on audit findings?**
- Have there been any adverse events or incidents in the past 3 years related to the use of PGDs? If so, how many and what were the main issues identified?**

A4 4a – The Trust does not audit the use of PGDs but each local area who have the ownership of the PGD audit every 2 years prior to ratification.

4b – no additional measures identified

4c – no adverse incidents over the last 3 years

Q5 Review and Update:

- What is the Trust's policy on the regular review and update of PGDs?**
- How often are PGDs typically reviewed and updated within the Trust?**
- Who is responsible for the creation, review, and update of PGDs within the Trust?**

A5 5a – For a new PGD it is to be audited and ratified after one year. For an established PGD, the audit and ratification is 2 yearly with the exception of those for antibiotics which are yearly.

5b – as above or if any changes to national guidelines or trust policy

5c – Creation – local staff who identify the need for the PGD, review is at directorate, divisional, corporate persons who are: lead advanced clinical practitioner, lead pharmacist, nominated medical person, chief nurse.

As per the policy, the update is the responsibility of the author responsible for the PGD.

Q6 Training:

- What training does the Trust provide to staff regarding the use of PGDs?**
- How frequently is this training provided and updated?**

A6 6a – training package available on the intranet for the use of PGDs.

6b – The training is carried out prior to using the PGD for the first time.

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records