



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-224

Date: 22nd August 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Discharge medicines service.

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 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 am requesting the following information on the NHS discharge medicine service (DMS), which became a nationally commissioned service on 15 February 2021.

1) When did your Trust begin referring patients through the NHS DMS?

A1 The Discharge Medicines Software was originally funded during the financial year 2020-21 by the West Midlands Academic Health Science Network. Hence, we started to make referrals during that financial year. UHNM renewed the annual subscription in December 2021.

Q2 How many patients has your Trust referred to community pharmacies through the DMS between 15 February 2021 and 14 July 2022?

a. How many patients has your Trust discharged in total within this timeframe?

A2 1,697

Q3 According to national guidance for operating the DMS, Trusts are responsible for developing their own eligibility criteria for patients referred through the service that meet “local population needs” (see page 13). Please could you supply a copy of your Trust’s eligibility criteria for referring patients through the DMS?

A3 We have no formal approved document currently – we have a draft SOP that we are working on finalising. As this is the Pharmacy team who do the referrals the eligibility has been trained out face to face with the team. This is all patients with compliance aids with changes to medication, patients who have complex medication regimes where medicines have been changed and patients who have been started on high risk medicines e.g. anticoagulants. Cardiology patients currently the highest rate of referrals.

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

UHNH 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.

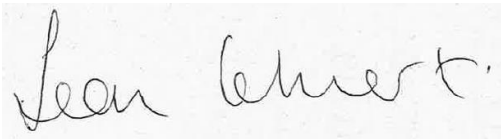
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust’s FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) and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

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

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager