



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-391

Date: 25th October 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 19th September 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding aseptic pharmaceutical services

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 Freedom of Information Request as Follows
A number of IV drugs are reconstituted or prepared before administration Pharmacy aseptic services.
If your Trust procures all or some of their aseptic pharmaceutical services from licenced compounders both NHS and Private.**

If so, can you list the Providers your Trust Currently uses.

A1 At UHNM we operate a 'mixed' system regarding the re-constituted of aseptic products including chemotherapy.

We reconstitute 'in – house' pharmacy via our aseptic unit at the Royal Stoke University Hospital site which has a MHRA Good Manufacturing Specials Licence.

In addition, we purchase from private third party providers. Procurement via third party provider is managed via a contractual framework which is operated by Health Trust Europe.

The utilisation of third party providers varies depending on supply chain issues and turnaround times of orders.

Main suppliers are: Bath ASU, Baxters and Scensius

Q2 Can you indicate if your Trust has a preferred or preferred provider if so please list them.

A2 Bath ASU and Baxter

Q3 Does your Trust have any documentation that falls within the Scope of a competent FOI request relating to how you choose compounders if so, can I have copies. Please feel free to redact as necessary.

A3 There has been a full procurement process undertaken regarding the contractual arrangements regarding suppliers. This includes supplier volumes and pricing structures.

Compounders are used in line with the West Midlands Chemotherapy framework which is managed by Health Trust Europe.

The supply chain of aseptic products is fragile. Hence, considerations undertaken when choosing a supplier on the contractual framework includes turnaround times of aseptic products (target is 5 days); formulation e.g. stability data / expiry dates and volumes; price as per framework; availability of products.

*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:



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

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