



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-576

Date: 5th December 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st November 2024 sent to our communications team, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) :
Management of End of Life Care

Q1 I am a 4th Year Masters Student Paramedic at Keele University, collecting data for my Service Improvement Masters Dissertation. My dissertation is about the administration of midazolam to manage agitation in end-of-life patients encountered in paramedic practice in a regional ambulance service. For this, I would like to know the current management of end-of-life care patients in UHNM and what are the Trust's Gold standard medications they use in managing agitation in end-of-life patients.

A1 Please see 2 attached UHNM guidelines which we hold for "care in the last days of life". It contains specific guidance on management of agitation (on page 10 of the longer document). This guidance is aimed at generalist staff. We advise the prescription of midazolam 2.5-5mg (or 1.25-2.5mg if renal function very impaired) by subcutaneous injection to be available for use in case agitation occurs in the last days of life. If patients do experience agitation and require administration of this medication referral to the Palliative Care Team is advised. The Palliative Care Team may consider other interventions such as the prescription of a syringe driver containing midazolam, our first line treatment of agitation. Some patients with severe agitation that doesn't respond to midazolam may be offered other medications such as levomepromazine, haloperidol or in very severe cases phenobarbital. Guidance for this specialist management is available in the West Midlands Palliative Care Physicians Guidelines available at www.westmidspallcare.co.uk or from the Palliative Care Formulary palliativedrugs.com

*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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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,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer