



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-445

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 2nd December 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding digital sepsis alerts.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 We are interested in which alerting algorithms are in use in different NHS Trusts. As part of this we would like information on digital sepsis alerts in your Trust.**

**Could you provide the following information?**

**a) Does your Trust use an electronic health/patient record? YES/NO**

A1 We have digital observations in vitals, which also covers sepsis, nutritional assessment, Indwelling devices Fluid management.  
NB vitals is only used in inpatient ward areas excluding Maternity

**Q2 If YES**

**b) Who is the provider of the electronic health/patient record?  
eg EPIC and Cerner**

***If you use more than one system in the hospital could you provide details of the system used for adult inpatients and adult emergency departments?***

**c) When was the electronic health/patient record introduced?**

**d) Does your Trust use a digital sepsis alert [1]? YES/NO**

A2 See below:

- b) Vitals is a system C product
- c) Introduced in 2017/2018 for observations followed by other modules 2019 including sepsis
- d) Sepsis assessment, alerts are seen in ward adult inpatient areas excluding maternity

**Q3 If YES**

- e) Please give details on the hospital departments in which the alert is active.
- f) Please provide details of the algorithm [2] and/or thresholds [3] in use in the digital sepsis alert.

**If different algorithms and/or thresholds are in use in different hospital departments please provide this information.**

A3 See below:

- e) Adult inpatient ward areas excluding maternity
- f) See below table

The module calculates a patient's qSOFA score [3] from standard CareFlow Vitals observations [1] taken in the CareFlow Vitals app.

Each of the following results scores one qSOFA point:

- Low blood pressure (SBP ≤ 100 mmHg)
- High respiratory rate (≥ 22 breaths per min)
- AVPU: V, P or U and alert/confused OR GCS (ED only): < 15

Sepsis risk assessment [7] is triggered if:

- The qSOFA score is equal to or greater than 2 [4]
- The patient's EWS is equal to or greater than 5 [4]
- An individual observation contributes 3 or more to the EWS [4]
- AVPU = Alert/confused [4]

\*Taken from product description

Please note that UHNM receives EPR FOI requests regularly and you may find the following of interest:

- 092-2122
- 261-2122
- 313-2122

This information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

\*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.

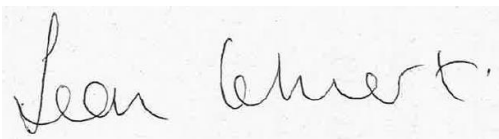
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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