



**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 2022/23-151

Date: 16th August 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

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

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 (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 BACKGROUND

This request is made to try to gather information regarding the referral process for patients with orthopaedic injuries sustained whilst staying away from home to their local hospital for on-going care.

REQUEST

1, An adult patient (who usually lives in your catchment area) sustains an injury, whilst out of area, that requires Orthopaedic follow up as an outpatient. They have attended the Emergency Department nearest to where they are staying and received initial management and are now able to be discharged for outpatient follow up. They would like to have this managed at their local hospital (your NHS Trust)

What mechanism would the referral hospital need to go through to ensure this follow up and timely review occurs. Please include as much detail as possible, imagining that you are the clinician at the referring hospital.



A1 It is difficult to provide specific advice without understanding the injury, however generally the process is included below.
The referring hospital provides discharge information and plan of on-going care to the patients GP. The GP can then determine if the patient requires referral to the Fracture Clinic, or whether the patient would need to be referred to the Musculoskeletal service for on-going management.
If the patient remained an inpatient then this would require a Consultant to Consultant referral from the out of area hospital to the local hospital who would then consider repatriation.

Q2 A paediatric patient aged 16 and under, (who usually lives in your catchment area) sustains an injury, whilst out of area, that requires Orthopaedic follow up as an outpatient. They have attended the Emergency Department nearest to where they are staying and received initial management and are now able to be discharged for outpatient follow up. They would like to have this managed at their local hospital (your NHS Trust)

What mechanism would the referral hospital need to go through to ensure this follow up and timely review occurs. Please include as much detail as possible, imagining that you are the clinician at the referring hospital.

A2 It is difficult to provide specific advice without understanding the injury, however generally the process is included below.
The referring hospital provides discharge information and plan of on-going care to the patients GP. The GP can then determine if the patient requires referral to the Fracture Clinic, or whether the patient would need to be referred to the Musculoskeletal service for on-going management.
If the patient remained an inpatient then this would require a Consultant to Consultant referral from the out of area hospital to the local hospital who would then consider repatriation.

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

UHNM 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.

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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.

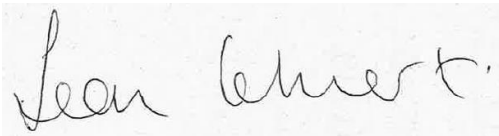
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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