



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-277

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

Date: 3rd December 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 9th October 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding supply of ICU medicines.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in question 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in multiple administration adverse incident records and therefore we would have to extrapolate this information where found. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

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 Please provide answers to the following requests:

1) Confirm or deny whether disruption to supply of ICU medicines is included as a risk on the Trust's risk register

A1 No, there is no risk with regard to shortage of medicines specific to ICU, however please note:

Taken from the UHNM risk regarding supply shortages:

If - The National Supply Chain of specified Medicines including radiopharmaceuticals and radio isotopes is compromised due to manufacturer/supplier problems, plant/facility failure or downtime, contractual and forecast issues/compliance failures e.g. MHRA and potentially Brexit.

Then - Patient Safety may be compromised as specified medicines may not be available in a timely manner to treat patients

Resulting in: Demand management processed being implemented (e.g. Immunoglobulins)
Alternative unlicensed and/or off-label medicines non-first line treatments being used
Treatment of patients being adversely affected.

- Q2** Confirm or deny whether disruption to supply of noradrenaline is included as a risk on the Trust's risk register
- A2 No
- Q3** With regards to the above 2 questions:
a. When were the risks put on the register
b. When are they to be reviewed
c. What significance status have they been given. e.g. use of a RAG-rating system
- A3 Not applicable
- Q4** Provide the number of safety incidents recorded at your Trust which relate to the preparation and /or the manipulation/mixing of medicines in critical care areas between 1 January 2019 and 1 September 2020
- A4 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above
- Q5** Provide the number of safety incidents recorded at your Trust which relate to administration, preparation, and/or the manipulation/mixing of noradrenaline at the bedside between 1 January 2019 and 1 September 2020. Provide details of the reported cases.
- A5 There have been no safety incidents recorded which relate to administration, preparation, and/or the manipulation/mixing of noradrenaline at the bedside between 1 January 2019 and 1 September 2020.
- Q6** Confirm or deny if your Trust has taken action to adhere to the guidance published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, titled Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines (December 2018), specifically with regards to appendix C and, "as outlined in the core guidance, manipulation of medicines in clinical areas is minimised and medicines are presented as prefilled syringes or other 'ready-to-administer' preparations wherever possible..." <https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines/professional-guidance-on-the-safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines>
- A6 Yes, options are continually considered and reviewed.
- Q7** Confirm or deny if your Trust subscribes to and follows the guidance provided on IV administration of medication by the MEDUSA injectable medicines guide.
- A7 Yes
- Q8** Supply evidence of the process the Trust has taken to address the principles outlined in the guidance above, specifically with regards to "the manipulation of medicines in clinical areas is minimised and medicines are presented as prefilled syringes or other 'ready-to-administer' preparations..."
- A8 Information not held

Q9 Confirm or deny whether your Trust is stockpiling ready-to-use or ready-to-administer noradrenaline for the likely increased demand over the next 6 months (stockpiling is defined as retaining medicines with a shelf-life of at least 12 months)

A9 No, we don't use this product

*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.

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

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

