



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-565

Date: 20th March 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th January 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding spinal cord injured patients

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 am sending a separate Freedom of Information request to every NHS Trust, and would request that Freedom of Information Coordinators send (via the WhatDoTheyKnow website) a discrete and separate response for either their own Trust, or for each of the individual Trusts they are responsible for.

I work for the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA), the leading national user-led charity supporting spinal cord injured people and their families. Being a user led organisation SIA understand the immense challenges of living with a spinal cord injury (SCI). We strive to support all SCI people to access the services and support they need to stay healthy and live fulfilled and active lives.

As a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I'd be grateful if you could provide the following information about the provision of bowel care for adults.

Q1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A1 No

Q2 Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your Trust in August 2018?

(a) Yes

(b) No

(c) No bowel assessment and management policy in place

A2 No bowel assessment and management policy in place

Q3 If admitted to the Trust, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal of faeces?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A3 No

Q4 If admitted to the Trust, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital rectal stimulation?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A4 No

Q5 If admitted to the Trust, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Trans anal irrigation?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A5 No

Q6 Do you have ward-based staff skilled in supporting patients with neurogenic bowel care interventions, including the digital removal of faeces?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A6 No

Q7 Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A7 No

Q8 Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with the bowel care element of the patient's care?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A8 No

Q9 Does the Trust have an appropriate clinical lead in place (such as a Continence Manager) to manage the overall delivery of bowel care interventions to patients?

(a) Yes

(b) No

A9 No

Q10 What are the contact details for this clinical lead (i.e. name, job title, telephone number and email address)?

A10 Not applicable

*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,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records