



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-712

Date: 27th February 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24th January 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Sodium Nitrite Poisoning

We would like to make you aware that the website you have used to place this request can be seen world wide- and your daughters details are visible, we recommend that you remove this detail and re-submit.

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 Our daughter [REDACTED] recently took her own life by ingesting sodium nitrite. From the material we have seen so far from her inquest, we understand that there is an antidote to sodium nitrite poisoning called methylthioninium chloride, commonly referred to as methylene blue.

We request the following information:

1) Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust trained to recognise the symptoms of sodium nitrite poisoning ?

A1 We are very sorry to hear about the tragic death of your daughter Hannah. As requested we have responded under our Freedom of Information process, which we hope provides the assurance that our emergency department clinical teams are trained to assess and treat patients who present with an overdose and that they have access to the medications required to treat these patients quickly.

As part of their medical training, clinicians are taught to recognise certain toxidromes (patterns of symptoms consistent with overdose/poisoning with certain medications), and to consult

Toxbase.org or the National Poisons Information Service, for guidance as to what antidote may be used for a specific poison. If the antidote recommended is methylene blue then they would follow the recommended treatment regime provided.

Q2 Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust trained to treat patients suffering with sodium nitrite poisoning with the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue ?

A2 As part of their medical training, clinicians are taught to recognise certain toxidromes (patterns of symptoms consistent with overdose/poisoning with certain medications), and to consult Toxbase.org or the National Poisons Information Service, for guidance as to what antidote may be used for a specific poison. If the antidote recommended is methylene blue then they would follow the recommended treatment regime provided.

Q3 Does the A&E department at the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust routinely carry the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue?

A3 Methylene blue is stored in the Omnicell (drug dispensing machine) in the resuscitation room of the emergency department.

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records