



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-384

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

Date: 30th September 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 11th September 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Transformation Directorate's website

Q1 The Transformation Directorate's website indicates that the NHS is increasingly using technology to support care, with such technologies including virtual wards, apps, remote monitoring technologies, patient portals, and telemedicine devices. Examples of technology being used to support children's care are provided on some Trusts' websites. A limited number of examples of how such technologies are being used to support children's care are also outlined on the Transformation Directorate's website. There appears to be no comprehensive database for the public to access which outlines the technologies and apps that are currently being used to support children's care.

The posts which I have read which discuss how the NHS is using virtual wards, apps, remote technologies, patient portals and telemedicine devices, provide no information concerning what parents and children are told about how their data will be used or whether parents are able to opt out of such technology use.

1. Please can you therefore provide details of
 - a. whether (as at August 2024) any of the following are used by the trust to support children's care: telehealth and telemedicine technologies, MHealth apps, health information technologies, remote monitoring technologies, digital healthcare devices, wearable devices and telemedicine devices and/or any other technologies designed to facilitate personalised medicine not detailed above
 - b. The names/details of technologies being used
 - c. The purposes for which such technologies are being used. NB we are not asking for detailed information about the operation or implementation of these technologies, but merely the broad purposes for which they are being used.

A1 We don't use any of the suggested apps or systems at present for children, but we are currently working on the benefit of Teledoc. We do use wristwatch equipment to monitor sleep at home, along with other devices, but there will be no difference in the information captured and how the data is stored from inpatient devices.

Q2 In your Trust, please can you advise what information clinicians are given about how data collected by such technology is processed, for what purposes, and with whom it is shared. Again, we are asking for information in broad terms e.g. whether information is shared with commercial entities/third parties and the status of those entities i.e. technology provider but not the names of those entities.

A2 All UHNM clinicians are aware of the need to undergo DSP due diligence when implementing or updating digital systems. As part of this due diligence process what information is shared, with whom it is shared and the purpose/legal basis for the data collection is detailed. Such sharing would be on a case-by-case basis.

Q3 Please can you confirm what information doctors and other health professionals in your Trust give/are advised to give to child patients and/or their parents about the benefits and risks of using such technology generally/specifically.

A3 As part of the Trust due diligence process the benefits and risks of using such technology is detailed and as such UHNM doctors and other health professionals would make patients aware of any benefits to using technology on a case-by-case basis. Please see patient information leaflet.

Q4 Please can you confirm what information doctors and other health professionals in your Trust give/are advised to give to child patients and/or their parents about how data collected by such technology is processed, for what purposes, and with whom it is shared.

A4 Staff are provided DSP training on an annual basis. A patient information leaflet is available for patients (please see attached) and patients can also refer to the [Trust's Privacy Notice](#).

Q5 Please can you provide copies of all policies and documents that have been developed by or within the Trust with a view to ensuring that when NHS staff are advocating the use of such technology, children and parents' information is processed in accordance with the UKGDPR.

A5 Please find attached the following policies; Data Security, Protection and Confidentiality Policy DSP10, Information Asset Management Policy DSP 15, Information Lifecycle Records Management Policy DSP16 and Overarching Policy DSP18.

Q6 Please can you advise what information is currently provided within your Trust for the child patients and their parents to refer to should they have any queries about how data collected by such technologies is used and by whom.

A6 Patients and parents would be advised to review the [Trust's Privacy Notice](#).

Q7 Please can you advise what advice is provided to clinicians in your Trust about the response they should give where a child patient or their parent does not wish to use such technologies/wishes to opt out of data collection or sharing related to the use of such technologies.

A7 Staff complete annual DSP training which contains information about the national data opt-out policy; further information is also detailed on Trust internal Intranet site for staff to access. Staff

are also provided access to policies detailing how to support patient queries around the use of their data . Patients and parents would also be advised to review the Trust's Privacy Notice which includes information for patients and parents on how to opt-out.

*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