

FOI REF: 23/731

20th November 2023

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My queries pertain to the use, development, and audit of Patient Group Directions (PGDs) within [NHS Trust Name].

Specifically, I am seeking answers to the following questions:

1. General Information:

- a. **How many active Patient Group Directions (PGDs) does the Trust currently have in place?**

97.

- b. **In which departments or services within the Trust are PGDs most used?**

Urology, Emergency dept, Paediatrics, Sexual health, Occupational therapy.

2. Usage of PGDs:

- a. **Over the past 3 years, how many patients have been treated under a PGD in the Trust?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record patients who have been treated under a PGD in the Trust. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of all patients' records which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

- b. How does the Trust ensure that PGDs are only used by those healthcare professionals competent to do so?**

Regular audit and authorisation.

3. Types of Medications:

- a. Please provide a list of all medications currently administered under a PGD within the Trust.**

Lidocaine, vaccines, Aspirin, clopidogrel, Flumazenil, Alprostadil, methylprednisolone, paracetamol, ibuprofen, salbutamol, codeine, naproxen, triamcinolone, etonorgestrel, chlorphenamine, dexamethasone, clotrimazole, levonorgestrel, ulipristal, PEP for HIV, diazepam, atropine, doxycycline, IUS system, oral contraceptives, medroxyprogesterone, aciclovir, metronidazole, sildenafil, cephalexin, Piperacillin. Tazobactam, meropenem, azithromycin, co-amoxiclav, fluconazole.

- b. Are there specific medications that the Trust has deemed unsuitable for PGD use? If so, which ones?**

Abortifacients, Some CDs, dressings, radiopharmaceuticals, unlicensed medications.

4. Audit Policy:

- a. How frequently does the Trust audit the use of PGDs?**

Every 3 years or less.

- b. What measures are in place to ensure the safe and appropriate use of PGDs, based on audit findings?**

Review by author, pharmacy governance team and lead pharmacist for that speciality. Any concerns will be discussed by the Medicines Optimisation group.

- c. Have there been any adverse events or incidents in the past 3 years related to the use of PGDs? If so, how many and what were the main issues identified?**

6 incidents. Medicine for PGD not available so delayed supply, untrained staff member using PGD, Patient supplied med under PGD was not eligible due to inclusion criteria.

5. Review and Update:

- a. What is the Trust's policy on the regular review and update of PGDs?**

Reviewed and updated on a 3-year cycle.

- b. How often are PGDs typically reviewed and updated within the Trust?**

Every 3 years or less.

- c. Who is responsible for the creation, review, and update of PGDs within the Trust?**

Professional lead for the speciality using the PGD.

6. Training:

- a. What training does the Trust provide to staff regarding the use of PGDs?**

PGD competency framework in procedure. PGD e learning available for staff that are new to PGDs.

- b. How frequently is this training provided and updated?**

Training record register checked every time PGD is reviewed and updated.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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