

FOI REF: 24/187

25th June 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

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:

This request will only be relevant if your trust hires/has hired physician associates (PAs):

1) Several physician associates (PAs) have erroneously prescribed medications to patients. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:

a) The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate.

2019.

b) The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions.

1

c) The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e. patients given medication.

2

d) The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e. patients not given medications.

1

Cont.../

- e) **Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed.**

None.

- f) **Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions.**

None known.

- g) **Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your trust (e.g. PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality).**

Role originally unclear and given full access to discharge system by IT.

- h) **What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?**

The IT team who manages the discharge system are updating and redefining roles and access on prescription for discharge.

- 2) **Several trusts have reported situations in which their physician associates (PAs) have erroneously ordered ionising radiation. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:**

- a) **Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation.**

0.

- b) **Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation, and these requests were acted on (i.e. the patient received the scan with ionising radiation as requested by the PA).**

0.

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 faithfully

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net