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| Please contact: Donna Bamber  Email: mlcsu.foi@nhs.net  Direct Tel: 01772 214 227  26 April 2016 | **NHS Midlands and Lancashire CSU**  Jubilee House Lancashire Business Park  Leyland PR26 6TR  Tel: 01772 644 400  Fax: 01772 227 022 |

Dear Mr Kelly

**Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**Ref no: FOI-01520-Q1H3-BP**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 April 2016 making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for access to information which may be held by NHS Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Please find detailed below NHS Blackpool CCG’s response to your request, which is formatted as follows:

1. A schedule of all the records covered by your request.
2. Details of NHS Blackpool CCG’s decision in regard to the information requested.
3. Details of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.
4. A statement concerning copyright and re-use of public sector information.

**This letter addresses each of these parts in turn:**

**1. Schedule of records**

**I have searched ‘Blackpool CCG for 'Request to prescribe Co-proxamol outside of local policy,’ unfortunately no results appeared.**

**Many other CCG's do recognise and accept that there may be some exceptional patients who may require medication or appliances outside of local policy. e.g. 'Black or Grey listed products'. I would be grateful if you could supply the following information: -**

1. **Does Blackpool CCG operate a process for requesting approval to continue prescribing Black or Grey drugs?**

**No**

1. **Re: -** [**http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/medicines/co-proxamol/**](http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/medicines/co-proxamol/) **under the heading ‘Background’ you state 'Withdrawn from the UK market because of safety concerns.' "The CSM has stated that there is no identifiable patient group in whom the risk: benefit of co-proxamol may be positive.” Did you arrive at your decision on the grounds of the 2004 CSM recommendations which were seriously outdated by 2015?**

**The decision was originally made then and the MHRA has not reinstated the licence for the product.**

1. **Could you supply the following: - A copy of the minutes from any meetings held leading to your decision of a ‘Do Not Prescribe Classification’ for Co-proxamol?**

**The CCG does not hold this information; it was prior to the establishment of CCG**

1. **A copy of all the information you reviewed and considered prior to making the decision to stop prescribing Co-proxamol.**

**The CCG does not hold this information, it was prior to the establishment of CCG**

1. **The occupations of all persons who were involved in making this decision.**

**The CCG does not hold this information, it was prior to the establishment of CCG**

1. **The results of any voting which may have taken place in arriving at your decision.**

**The CCG does not hold this information, it was prior to the establishment of CCG**

**2. Decision**

I can confirm that NHS Blackpool CCG does not hold some of the information requested, and this is detailed above:

**3. Right of appeal**

If you are dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you are entitled to complain in the following way:

Initially you should complain in writing to the freedom of information officer, either by email on [mlcsu.foi@nhs.net](mailto:mlcsu.foi@nhs.net) or post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you feel you have been wrongly denied access to the information requested. The freedom of information officer will ensure your complain is investigated under NHS Blackpool CCG’s internal processes and provide you with a written response within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Blackpool CCG.

**4. Copy and reuse of public sector information**

Most of the information provided by NHS Blackpool CCG in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In the majority of cases the information will be owned by NHS Blackpool CCG. The copyright for other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated in the information itself: in this case you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. It may also be used for the purposes of news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example, by publishing the information or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright owner.

Yours sincerely

**FOI Lead**

**NHS Blackpool CCG**