

To: Steve Wallace
request-457359-aec1daf9@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI 181

08 February 2018

Dear Steve Wallace,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 15 January 2018.

You asked:

'When claiming ESA due to suffering a Brain Hemorrhage (Subarachnoid Hemorrhage, SAH).

1, Has MAXIMUS UK agreed with the DWP to include the standards and practice of the 466 Neuro Conditions MED NEURODA 001 3 Final.pdf when assessing a ESA Work Capability Assessment with a claimant suffering the type of Brain Hemorrhage above, if so please supply the date this was agreed

2, Has the DWP issued and or requested MAXIMUS UK, follow the 466 Neuro Conditions MED NEURODA 001 3 Final.pdf when assessing a ESA claimant with a Brain Hemorrhage type, (Subarachnoid Hemorrhage, SAH}

3, Does any physical documentation/guidance exist that has been produced, in any format, for or on behalf of the DWP by MAXIMUS UK, in relation to [who] is qualified to assess a claimant suffering from a (Subarachnoid Hemorrhage, SAH).

4, If a Health Care Professional / Disability Analyst is found to have breached any rules of assessing a claimant with a brain injury mentioned above, when not suitably qualified or authorized, would the finding of such trigger a review of any previous assessments carried out with other claimants who have suffered brain injuries.'

In response to Q1 & Q2, this named document has been produced as part of a training programme for approved Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) to carry out Work Capability Assessments. Version 7 was agreed by both the Department and Centre for Health and Disability Assessments (CHDA) on 26th May 2016 and is in use from this date.

In response to Q3, the assessment of certain types of neurological conditions can only be assessed by specific HCPs; in this instance they are specifically Registered Medical Practitioners and Registered Physiotherapists only. Referring to Page 8 of the 466 Neuro Conditions MED NEURODA 001 handbook, it is stated that Sub Arachnoid Haemorrhage is a condition that can only be assessed by these HCPs.

A copy of the document has been provided with this response. Some information contained in the document falls within the exemptions allowed by Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and has therefore been redacted before issuing. The Section 40 exemption is applied

on the basis that it is personal data about a third party, in this case the name of a CHDA employee.

Most documents produced by the DWP and/or CHDA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the Open Government Licence (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/>). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see The National Archives website -<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/uk-gov-licensing-framework.htm>.

In response to Q.4, the Freedom of Information Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

There is no requirement for Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) to hold specific qualifications in the health conditions that you have stated, however DWP has set clear requirements on the professions, skills, experience and training of HCPs employed by CHDA.

All HCPs have passed strict recruitment and experience criteria and are registered with a relevant regulatory body such as the General Medical Council (GMC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) or EEA equivalent. CHDA ensure that any HCP has the following qualifications and experience:

- they are an occupational therapist, nurse, physiotherapist or doctor
- they are fully registered with the relevant regulatory body (doctors must have a licence to practice)
- they have no sanctions attached to registration (unless they relate to disability) – in individual cases this may be waived subject to agreement with the authority;
- they have at least 2 years post full registration experience (GMC, NMC, HCPC or EEA equivalent) or for non EU graduates 2 years post full registration experience unless otherwise agreed on an individual basis by the Authority.

DWP approves HCPs to carry out assessments. Approval by DWP will be dependent on CHDA demonstrating that the HCP has completed, to DWP's satisfaction, a course of training and appraisal and demonstrates the required competence to carry out assessments.

There is an established complaints process should a claimant be dissatisfied with the level of service provided by CHDA. More information can be found on the CHDA website at the following address: <https://www.chdauk.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions>

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

DWP Central Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745