

Dan Burden

By email: request-553512-  
bd94a47a@whatdotheyknow.com

Trust Headquarters  
Orchard House  
St Ann's Hospital  
St Ann's Road  
London  
N15 3TH

Email: beh-tr.foi@nhs.net

www.beh-mht.nhs.uk

Our Ref: FOI-FC-1760-19.02.19

Dear Dan Burden

12 March 2019

**Re: your application under the Freedom of Information Act for information regarding bowel management patient safety alert**

I am writing in respect of your recent enquiry for information held by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 19 February 2019.

You requested the following information:

As a request under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following information about the recent NHS Improvement (NHSI) Patient Safety Alert "Resources to support safer bowel care for patients at risk of autonomic dysreflexia 25 July 2018", Alert reference number: NHS/PSA/RE/2018/005

Q1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q2. Following recommendation of this patient safety alert, did the Trust "review your local clinical policy and guidance relating to bowel assessment and management"?

- (a) Yes – produced a new policy
- (b) Yes - revised an existing policy
- (c) Yes – retained existing policy
- (d) No – did not review an existing policy
- (e) No – no bowel assessment and management policy in place

Q3. Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your trust in August 2018?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) No bowel assessment and management policy in place

Q4. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal faeces?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q5. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Digital rectal stimulation?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q6. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Trans anal irrigation?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q8. Has the Trust “reviewed your local education and training provision for interventional bowel management” as recommended in the Patient Safety Alert?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q9. As requested by the Patient Safety Alert, has the trust developed “an action plan to ensure patients have adequate and timely access to staff who are trained appropriately to carry out these procedures, including in the evening and at weekends”?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q10. Has the Trust “shared your reviewed local guidance, advice on how to identify staff who can provide Digital Removal of Faeces, and the key messages in this alert with medical, nursing and other relevant clinical staff”?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q11. Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Q12. As recommended in the Patient Safety Alert, have you identified “an appropriate clinical leader to co-ordinate implementation of this alert”?

- (a) Yes (please answer Q13, but ignore Q14)
- (b) No (please answer Q14, but ignore Q13)

Q13. What are the contact details for the “appropriate clinical leader”(ie name, position, telephone and email)?

Q14. Why has your Trust not appointed an “appropriate clinical leader”?

- (a) Alert implemented without appointment of a clinical leader
- (b) Took no action following Patient Safety Alert, as policy already in place
- (c) Took no action. No existing policy in place
- (d) Other

Q15. Are your newly registered nurses able to demonstrate the nursing procedures as required in Annexe B, section 6.5 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council's document ‘Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses’?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Technical Note – Relevant annexe reads:-

“Annexe B

6: Use evidenced based, best practice approaches for meeting needs for care and support with bladder and bowel health

6.5: Administer enema, suppositories and undertake manual evacuation when appropriate.”

We have dealt with your request under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act which entitles you to be provided with any information held by a public authority, unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Please find below our response:

Q1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?

**(a) Yes**

Q2. Following recommendation of this patient safety alert, did the Trust “review your local clinical policy and guidance relating to bowel assessment and management”?

**(b) Yes - revised an existing policy**

Q3. Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your trust in August 2018?

**(b) No (the Spinal Injuries Association policy template was not received)**

Q4. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal faeces?

**(a) Yes**

Q5. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Digital rectal stimulation?

**(a) Yes**

Q6. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Trans anal irrigation?

**(a) Yes**

Q7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?

**(a) Yes**

Q8. Has the Trust “reviewed your local education and training provision for interventional bowel management” as recommended in the Patient Safety Alert?

**(a) Yes**

Q9. As requested by the Patient Safety Alert, has the trust developed “an action plan to ensure patients have adequate and timely access to staff who are trained appropriately to carry out these procedures, including in the evening and at weekends”?

**(a) Yes**

Q10. Has the Trust “shared your reviewed local guidance, advice on how to identify staff who can provide Digital Removal of Faeces, and the key messages in this alert with medical, nursing and other relevant clinical staff”?

**(a) Yes**

Q11. Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?

**(b) No**

Q12. As recommended in the Patient Safety Alert, have you identified “an appropriate clinical leader to co-ordinate implementation of this alert”?

**(a) Yes (please answer Q13, but ignore Q14)**

Q13. What are the contact details for the “appropriate clinical leader”(ie name, position, telephone and email)?

**Lola Akinyemi, Area Manager District Nursing, 020 87024545, lola.akinyemi@nhs.net**

Q14. Why has your Trust not appointed an “appropriate clinical leader”?

**N/A.**

Q15. Are your newly registered nurses able to demonstrate the nursing procedures as required in Annexe B, section 6.5 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council’s document ‘Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses’?

**(a) Yes**

### **Conditions of use**

Any information supplied to you is free to use for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication and subscription charge, would require the permission of the Trust.

Our copyright and database right material is licensed for use and re-use under the Open Government Licence (OGL).

You can [view the licence online](#), or write to: Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

The Trust provides a complaints procedure for the Freedom of Information Act and if you are not satisfied with the response, you should write to the Chief Executive at the address shown at the top of this letter or by email to: [beh-tr.ceomail@nhs.net](mailto:beh-tr.ceomail@nhs.net). It would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the complaints procedure, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner, who will consider whether the Trust has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the Trust to remedy any problems. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner’s website at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Complaints to the Information Commissioner should be sent to: First Contact Team, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



**F Cording**

**Assistant Trust Board Secretary**