

**Trust Headquarters**

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Our Ref: FoI 190219-2  
Email: [request-553517-85b757c7@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-553517-85b757c7@whatdotheyknow.com)  
Date: 10 June 2019

Dear Dan Burden

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

With reference to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act dated 19 February 2019, I can advise that the Trust **does the hold** the information that you are seeking. I will set this out below:

MY COLLEAGUES AND MYSELF ARE SENDING A DISCRETE AND SEPARATE FOI REQUEST TO EVERY NHS TRUST (BUT ARE ENSURING THAT NO DUPLICATE REQUEST IS MADE TO ANY ONE TRUST).

WE WOULD REQUEST THAT FOI OFFICERS SEND (VIA THE WHATDOTHEYKNOW WEBSITE PORTAL) A SIMILARLY DISCRETE AND SEPARATE RESPONSE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL TRUST.

I work for the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA), the leading national user-led charity supporting spinal cord injured people and their families. Being a user led organisation SIA understand the challenges of living with a spinal cord injury (SCI). We strive to support all people living with SCI to access the services and support they need to stay healthy and live full, fulfilling and active lives.

Part of my role is to assist the Head of Public Affairs with FOI requests, such as the one that follows. 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. It is the Bowel Care Policy for Adults.**  
(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 We have 24-hour cover in the bedded units to perform digital rectal examination, digital removal of faeces and digital rectal stimulation. We may not always have 24-hour cover for patients admitted on weekends, needing rectal irrigation. As an alternative, such patients would receive digital removal of faeces in the interim, if they are unable to perform trans anal irrigation themselves. Support with rectal irrigation would then be arranged during normal working hours, Monday to Friday and care and then be planned from there.**
- (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”(i.e. name, position, telephone and email)? **The appropriate clinical leader is Carol Carter, contactable on [carol.carter@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk](mailto:carol.carter@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk) and 0121-466-3700.**

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 – At present, there is a gap in their university education so that newly registered nurses may not have the requisite competence.**

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.”

I can confirm that as the information has been provided, this request is now closed.

For future reference, the Trust’s publication scheme and details of the services that we provide can be found on our website: [www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk](http://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk).

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**Chief Executive**  
**Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**  
**3 Priestley Wharf**  
**Holt Street**  
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**Telephone: 0121 466 7033**

Should you be dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner. A complaints form can be obtained from the Information Commissioner's website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk) or contact:

**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire SK9 5AF**  
**Telephone: 01625 545745**

Feedback

We would be interested to receive feedback as to how you feel your request has been dealt with to help us to understand where we are doing well and to make improvements where necessary; your comments (whether positive or negative) can be made either in writing to the address above or by email.

Yours sincerely  
**Freedom of Information Team**