

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Ref: DPT 18/19/384

Date: 06/03/2019

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act.

QUESTIONS

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
- (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

Chair: Julie Dent CBE - Chief Executive: Melanie Walker

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.”

RESPONSES

Devon Partnership NHS Trust is a Mental Health and Learning Disabilities NHS Trust, therefore we do not treat patients in the care of bowel dysfunction. If a patient presented with the symptoms of neurogenic bowel dysfunction we would

support them in seeking appropriate medical care via their GP or Acute NHS Trust.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Any appeal against this decision should be made in writing to:

Chief Information Officer, Devon Partnership NHS Trust, Prentice, Langdon Hospital, Dawlish, EX7 0NR.

The decision will be reviewed and a response provided within 20 working days. If you remain unsatisfied by the decision a complaint may be made in writing to the Complaints/Litigation Administrator at the above address for the matter to be dealt with in accordance with the Trust complaints policy.

Alternatively, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Tel: 0303 123 1113. For further information please refer to www.ico.org.uk

We are monitoring how people making Freedom of Information requests are experiencing the process and would value your feedback in order to improve the service as necessary. If you wish to provide feedback please respond via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BC6QXBM>