

A University Teaching Trust

Information Requests Team

Suite P1

Bridge Park Plaza

Bridge Park Road

Thurmaston

Leicester

LE4 8BL

Tel: 0116 295 0030

[www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk)

Direct dial: (0116) 225 3727

Email: [LPT-FOIRequests@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:LPT-FOIRequests@leicspart.nhs.uk)

Our ref: FOI/1819/SG7890

12 March 2019

Email: request-554077-5d8aea1a@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Tim Nicholson,

**Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Ref: FOI/1819/SG7890**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which we received on 20 February regarding NHS Improvement (NHSI) Patient Safety Alert NHS/PSA/RE/2018/005. Please find below our response to your request:

**REQUEST:**

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

Chair: Cathy Ellis Chief Executive: Dr Peter Miller

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust is a smoke-free Trust.  
Please visit [www.leicspart.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/smokefree) for details



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

## OUR RESPONSE:

1. (a) Yes, we have guidelines for staff undertaking digital rectal examination (DRE) for bowel management, including digital removal of faeces (DRF), in adults within Community Health Services, which would include spinal injured patients and those with neurogenic bowel dysfunction.
2. (b) Yes - revised an existing policy
3. (b) No
4. (a) Yes
5. (a) Yes

Chair: Cathy Ellis Chief Executive: Dr Peter Miller

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust is a smoke-free Trust.  
Please visit [www.leicspart.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/smokefree) for details



6. (a) Yes
7. (a) Yes Agreed planned care will support inpatients for Learning Disability/MHSOP.
8. (a) Yes
9. (a) Yes Full review of staff regarding DRE/DRE training and targeting those that need upskilling.
10. (b) No
11. (b) No
12. (a) Yes (please answer Q13, but ignore Q14)
13. Chris Rippin, Clinical Operational Lead Continence  
Tel: 0116 295 8717 Email: [Chris.rippin@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:Chris.rippin@leicspart.nhs.uk)

**Please note:** in accordance with the Privacy & Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 we withhold permission for you to either store these details on your database, or make unsolicited contact for marketing purposes.

15. (a) Yes

I trust this response is helpful to you. However, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to:

*Mrs. Sam Kirkland, Head of Data Privacy,  
Suite P1, Bridge Park Plaza, Thurmaston, Leicester LE4 8BL*

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

*The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.  
Phone: 0303 123 1113. Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk) .  
There is no charge for making an appeal.*

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any communications.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Plowright  
Data Privacy Officer