

26th September 2019

Jimmy Hamill
[request-600350-9978c93d@whatdotheyknow.com]

Our ref.: FOI/19/284

Dear Mr Hamill

RE: Freedom of Information (FOI) request – De-escalation and withdrawal management of prescribed opioids

We refer to your Freedom of Information request which was received by the Western Health and Social Care Trust on 29th August 2019.

Your request

[1] What pathway does the WHSCT follow in dealing with de-escalation and withdrawal management of prescribed opioids?

[2] What existing guidelines does the WHSCT adhere to in dealing with de-escalation and withdrawal management of prescribed opioids?

[3] What are the organisational units (team structure & hierarchy) involved in providing de-escalation and withdrawal management of prescribed opioids? (Can the hierarchy be provided up to Director level please?)

[4] Is there a specific multi-disciplinary team set up for providing de-escalation and withdrawal management of prescribed opioids? If so – can you provide the membership of the MDT team and state how often that it has met in the last 12 months?

[5] How many cases of de-escalation and withdrawal management of prescribed opioids has WHSCT initiated and managed since 1st April 2016? Can this information be broken down by year:

-1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017
-1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018
-1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019
-1st April 2019 to current day

[6] What is the existing policy within the WHSCT for managing de-escalation and withdrawal management of prescribed opioids at present?

This should include – but not be necessarily limited to – use of care plans, patient involvement in decision making, support systems availability, liaison with local GP's, regular consultation expectations, continuous review.

Trust response

The Trust would advise that the vast majority of these prescriptions are initiated and managed in the Primary Care sector through GP practices. The Trust's Pain Management service has no input with these as GPs fall under the remit of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB). We therefore feel it would be more appropriate for your queries to be directed to HSCB for response. Please see their website for further information and contact details www.hscboard.hscni.net.

Please contact us at the below address if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

(Not signed – issued by email)

**Freedom of Information Office
Western Health and Social Care Trust**

Freedom of Information: If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the FOI Office, Lime Villa, Gransha Park, Clooney Road, Londonderry, BT47 6WJ (foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, usually within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Office, Western HSC Trust,
Lime Villa, Gransha Park, Clooney Road, Londonderry, BT47 6WJ
e-mail: foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net