

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

THE ROYAL CORNWALL HOSPITALS NHS TRUST RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST

Date Request Received: 14th September 2019

FOI Ref: 7849

Requested Information

- 1) Please has your Lead hysteroscopist read the Montgomery v. NHS Lanarkshire ruling on informed consent? [Y/N]
- 2) Please has your Lead Hysteroscopist read the RCOG guidance on consent <https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/doc...>
- 3) Please has your Lead Hysteroscopist read the RCOG Outpatient Hysteroscopy patient information leaflet <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/patients/pati...> which warns of the material risk of severe pain; identifies cohorts of patients at high risk of severe pain; and advises women that they may choose to have a general anaesthetic? [Y/N]
- 4) Does your Trust now intend to start using the RCOG Outpatient Hysteroscopy patient information leaflet, and if so, when? [Y/N]
- 5) If the answer to Question 4. is NO, please why is this? Is it because
 - a) You run a See & Treat clinic and the patient may not need a hysteroscopy [Y/N]
 - b) You don't want to mention severe pain and make patients anxious? [Y/N]
 - c) You don't want patients to choose GA because it will affect your hysteroscopy Best Practice Tariff? [Y/N]
 - d) You don't want to put patients through the higher risk of perforation under GA due to use of wider hysteroscopes? [Y/N]
 - e) You don't want to give patients the choice of GA because there is a long waiting-list which will delay cancer diagnosis [Y/N]
 - f) You don't have the budget to print out a new, longer leaflet? [Y/N] Any other reasons ... please specify.

Response

1-3) We are unable to respond to this part of the request as it is not information we have recorded, therefore it is not covered by the FOI Act.

However the ambulatory lead confirms that they are aware of the documents in 1-3 and assisted in the development of the RCOG information leaflet

4-5) The Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust use our own information sheets as these are more focused to our specific services. Also just to note we use different sheets (and their associated consent forms) for GA as outpatient hysteroscopy depending on which route the patient chooses, and another in draft form for when we establish a direct-entry service. These have not been scheduled for updating since the RCOG published their final version, but given our involvement in its development our own information sheets do contain the same key elements. When we do update them, we would expect to include a link under a heading of "further useful information".

The Trust would be reluctant to change without careful consideration as our own survey (every woman is encouraged to complete one, and our response rate is >90%) indicates that 2,512 rate the written information as “excellent” or “very good” compared to 26 reporting it as “poor” or “very poor”. Furthermore, 3,054 answered yes to “During your appointment did staff explain things in a way you could understand?” with only 1 answering no, indicating that our information provision is working well. 2,981 reported they felt involved in decisions compared to 5 not, and 3,069 felt able to ask questions about their care compared to 6 not.

Attachment(s)

None

Date Response Sent:

October 2019