



Stockport

NHS Foundation Trust

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Request for Information

Dear Ms Clayton,

I am writing regarding your request for information which we received via email on 23/09/2019. In that request you asked for information in relation to palliative support workers.

We are pleased to provide the following information in response to your specific questions.

Please could I request the following information?

1) Do Palliative Support Workers have the same authority as District Nurses to administer controlled drugs?

Non-registered healthcare professionals (band 3 and above) can administer oral and topical preparations of controlled drugs provided they have completed the community medicine management essentials training and have been assessed as competent by their manager / senior registered nurse. Staff working for the Palliative Care Respite team and involved in caring for patients in the last days of life will need to complete additional training regarding administering oral preparations of controlled drugs for breakthrough pain and breathlessness. Training will also be given on service specific documentation, including stock control record sheet and core care plan. Additional training will be provided by the Specialist Palliative Care Team.

2) Can District Nurses give permission to Palliative Support Workers to administer a controlled drug, whether verbally or under instructions via telephone instructions?

Please see above

3) If so, is this normal practice?

Please see above

4) When a person is fitted with a syringe driver containing a controlled drug, do Palliative Support Workers have the same authority as District Nurses to open the driver with the drivers key?

The healthcare professional (band 3 or 4) must not under any circumstance administer any injectable form of a controlled drug.

5) If so, is this normal practice?

Please see above

6) Does a mar sheet have to always be filled in whoever administers medications?

Yes

If you have any queries about our response, please let me know by writing to the above address.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Sillitoe
Freedom of Information and Information Governance Support Officer