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Dean Hough
request-547995-3f8708c3@whatdotheyknow.com

3 June 2019

Dear Dean

PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL

RE: Freedom of Information Request 19060 Internal Review

We received your original request in January 2019 and replied in April, apologising for the delay in dispatching the information to you.

Your original request and our response were as follows:

RCOG. Hysteroscopy, Best Practice in Outpatient (Green-top Guideline No. 59)

1 How have you implemented these guidelines specifically it is important that women are offered, from the outset, the choice of having the procedure performed as a day case procedure under general or regional anaesthetic.

Yes. Women are offered the option of having the hysteroscopy done under GA in day case surgery. However they are advised that it is recommended that it is best done in outpatients based on the national recommendations.

2 If not what is your basis for ignoring the RCOG

N/A

On 25 April you emailed "to request an internal review of Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's handling of my FOI request 'RCOG. Hysteroscopy, Best Practice in Outpatient (Green-top Guideline No. 59)'".

a) I asked HOW have you implemented these guidelines. One guideline says you should make the surroundings more comfortable how have you done this etc.

b) What guidelines were you on about when you say you prefer outpatient first?

a) The Trust deems that your original request asking "how" we have implemented the guidelines is not a request for information held by the Trust, but a request for a description of service implementation at the hospital. The Freedom of Information

request covers the provision of information held by the organisation, rather than description or discussion of the services we provide. We therefore provided a direct response to the question you posed regarding whether “women are offered, from the outset, the choice of having the procedure performed as a day case procedure under general or regional anaesthetic”.

Should you have specific requests for information held by the Trust about the hysteroscopy service, we will of course be happy to provide you with the information requested.

b) the guidelines to which we referred to are the RCOG. Hysteroscopy, Best Practice in Outpatient (Green-top Guideline No. 59):

“What is the ideal setting for performing hysteroscopy?

All gynaecology units should provide a dedicated outpatient hysteroscopy service to aid management of women with abnormal uterine bleeding. There are clinical and economic benefits associated with this type of service.”

Please accept our apologies that this was not clear in our original response.

I hope that this clarifies the original response we provided. As mentioned above, if you would like to make a further request for information on this topic please do so using the contact details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Liz Beardsall
Deputy Trust Secretary
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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