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Request for Information Reference: 01.24.18

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Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to Treating Patients with Sodium Nitrite Poisoning and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

#### **We request the following information :**

- 1. Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust trained to recognise the symptoms of sodium nitrite poisoning ?**

Yes the clinicians are trained in treating a condition called methemoglobinaemia which can happen due to certain medications, chemicals, some foods or inherited. One of the chemicals is sodium nitrate. The antidote for this condition is methylene blue (methylthioninium chloride).

- 2. Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust trained to treat patients suffering with sodium nitrite poisoning with the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue ?**

Yes, national data base (Toxbase) which has comprehensive information about the management of the same.

**3. Does the A&E department at the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust routinely carry the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue ?**

Yes we keep Methylthioninium chloride 50mg in 10mL (0.5%) injection (5amps) in ED at both Durham and Darlington in the main stock cupboard.

This is as per Royal College of Emergency Medicine and National Poisons Information Service Guideline on Antidote Availability for Emergency Departments (Version 6, SEPTEMBER 2023) APPENDIX 1: Stocking Guidance.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs).

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator**