Request for Information Reference: 04.17.25

Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddfrrfio@nhs.net

Email only

22 May 2017

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 22 April 2017 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding outpatient hysteroscopy / biopsy pain control. Specifically you asked for:

The following information relating to your Trust's (and its outsourced services') practice of outpatient hysteroscopy/biopsy, pain control and patient choice:

1. The patient information leaflet/s?

Answer: Please see 2 leaflets attached.

2. The consent form/s?

Answer: Verbal consent is taken and recorded on the patient pathway.

3. for each of the last 3 financial years:

i. all audits of OP hysteroscopy adverse events, (including infection, perforation, pain equal to or above 7/10 on VAS)?

Answer: There have been no adverse events recorded in the past 3 years.

ii. all surveys of patients’ outpatient hysteroscopy experiences. Are all your patients allowed to complete the satisfaction survey at home?
Answer: Yes

**iii. the number of your patients who had**

- a) GA,
- b) spinal anaesthesia,
- c) monitored procedural IV sedation,
- d) local anaesthetic,
- e) no anaesthetic

Answer: The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of patient notes which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

**iv. the % of your**

- a) diagnostic hysteroscopies,
- b) operative hysteroscopies that were done in outpatients.

Answer: The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of patient notes which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

**Did your Trust meet the Best Practice Target % Tariff for each of these years?** N

4. i. Is local anaesthetic available in all your outpatient hysteroscopy clinics?

Answer: Yes

ii. Is Entonox available in all your outpatient hysteroscopy clinics?

Answer: No

5. Are all your hysteroscopy patients (including See & Treat/One Stop Shop/Late Cancellations) offered?
i. local anaesthetic?
ii. GA?
iii. spinal anaesthesia?
iv. safely monitored IV sedation?

Answer: All patients seen in the OP setting are offered local anaesthetic as required. If they are unable to tolerate they are offered GA, Spinal or IV sedation.

6. Do you use electro-surgery in any of your outpatients clinics?

Answer: Yes

If so, do you always use the lowest power setting?

Answer: Yes

7. What type and diameter of scopes do you use in

a) outpatients? – 2.9mm semi flexible

b) for GA patients? Rigid, semi-rigid, flexible? - 3.4mm

8. What is the minimum training and accreditation (e.g. RCOG ATSM) that all your NEW hysteroscopists must have?

Answer:
- Nurse Hysteroscopist: Accredited Nurse BSGE Masters Level
- Medical staff: RCOG ATSM

9. What % diagnostic outpatient hysteroscopy/biopsy patients had an incomplete procedure which was repeated with epidural, GA or sedation?

Answer: The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of patient notes which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

10. Does your Trust have a psychosexual counselling service for PTSD caused by severe procedural pain?

Answer: No

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. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive  
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner’s Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell  
Freedom of Information Officer