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Darlington  
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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
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Request for Information Reference: 02.18.24

Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

12 March 2018

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 13 February 2018 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 care of new-born babies. Specifically you asked:

***Please can I make a new Freedom of Information request, which concerns the care of new-born babies you look after on the neonatal side of care (neonatal unit/post-natal ward/transitional care etc.):***

***For each of the hospitals in your Trust that treat new-born babies, please can you provide any information you hold (such as protocol, local guidelines/advice etc.), on when a new-born baby would normally receive a lumbar puncture when you are worried about an infection or sepsis?***

Answer: We follow the NICE guidance - Neonatal infection (early onset): antibiotics for prevention and treatment Clinical guideline [CG149] Published date: August 2012. This is available to all staff groups and a shortened reference version is also available to help staff.

***I am particularly interested if there is a local CRP (C-reactive protein) blood level at which a lumbar puncture is usually done?***

Answer: There is no fixed level at which we would carry out a lumbar puncture. We would consider it in cases of infection where the CRP is greater than 10 (as per NICE guidance), taking into account the risk factors, clinical condition and any other available lab results.

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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**