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Request for Information Reference: 02.18.52

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Email only

3 April 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 28 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 pressure sores. Specifically you asked for:

1. How many patients with unavoidable grade 2 grade 3 grade 4 pressure sores were admitted from the community to University Hospital of North Durham (UHND) in the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 ,2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018?

Answer: Patients admitted to the Trust with existing pressure area damage have the tissue damage recorded at the point of admission but it cannot be designated avoidable or unavoidable.

Please note, with regards to this answer and also the answer to question 2, we are unable to answer this question as the patients who are admitted with pressure damage come from a variety of sources, such as their own home (with or without District Nursing involvement), other trusts, care homes, residential homes. When these patients are received into hospital we often do not have the information to be able to review the circumstances before they came under our care so are unable to state whether this is avoidable or unavoidable. We do not do a previous review but do carry out a review whilst in our care

2. How many patients with avoidable grade 2 grade 3 grade 4 pressure sores were admitted from the community to UHND in the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 ,2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018?

Answer: Patients admitted to the Trust with existing pressure area damage have the tissue damage recorded at the point of admission but it cannot be designated avoidable or unavoidable.

3. How many patients with avoidable grade 2 grade 3 grade 4 pressure sores occurred whilst patients were in UHND, (IE. Which were not reported within 72hours of admission).In the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018?

Answer: With regards to this answer and the answer to question 4 the Trust holds the data by care group but not by site. To be able to answer the questions would take in excess of the statutory 18 and a quarter hours we are allowed to spend on any one request. We are therefore 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.

4. How many patients with unavoidable grade 2 grade 3 grade 4 pressure sores occurred whilst patients were in UHND? (I.e. Which were not reported within 72hours of admission), in the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018?

Answer: The Trust is unable to identify this as the data is only split down into care groups and not by site. It would mean going into each incident and identifying where they were, however some may have spent time on more than one site and so the information would be inaccurate and it would take a number of days to gather. We are therefore 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.

5.a Please state how you have defined avoidable pressure sores?

Answer: The definition of avoidable pressure ulcer, where there are identified areas of policy that have not been met, and/or where documentation lacks evidence that policy was implemented and evaluated. All incidents of pressure ulcer are reviewed and are deemed avoidable if, the prevention policy is not completed and evaluated adequately.

5b How many patients with pressure sores were referred to the coroner in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018?

Answer: The Trust does not record this information.

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