

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 02.19.44

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

Email only

14 March 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 19 February 2019 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 resources to support safer bowel care. Specifically you requested information as follows:

As a request under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following information about the recent NHS Improvement (NHSI) Patient Safety Alert “Resources to support safer bowel care for patients at risk of autonomic dysreflexia 25 July 2018”, Alert reference number: NHS/PSA/RE/2018/005

Q1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?

Answer: Yes.

Q2. Following recommendation of this patient safety alert, did the Trust “review your local clinical policy and guidance relating to bowel assessment and management”?

Answer: Yes, revised an existing policy.

Q3. Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your Trust in August 2018?

Answer: No.

Q4. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal faeces?

Answer: Yes (if appropriate).

Staff are being supported to attend training to become competent in this procedure. Ultimately, each ward or area will be able to offer this procedure 24/7. In the meanwhile staff from other areas e.g. community nurses, will support ward nurses to deliver this procedure if a patient is admitted.

Q5. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Digital rectal stimulation?

Answer: Yes.

Q6. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Trans anal irrigation?

Answer: Yes.

Trans anal irrigation is a specialist treatment and the Trust does not expect every ward/ area to have a nurse competent to undertake this procedure. However, the Trust expects the ward manager to contact the identified lead for the acute sector so that arrangements can be made to support the patient to continue their TAI whilst in hospital.

Q7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?

Answer: Yes.

Q8. Has the Trust “reviewed your local education and training provision for interventional bowel management” as recommended in the Patient Safety Alert?

Answer: Yes.

Q9. As requested by the Patient Safety Alert, has the Trust developed “an action plan to ensure patients have adequate and timely access to staff who are trained appropriately to carry out these procedures, including in the evening and at weekends”?

Answer: Yes.

Q10. Has the Trust “shared your reviewed local guidance, advice on how to identify staff who can provide Digital Removal of Faeces, and the key messages in this alert with medical, nursing and other relevant clinical staff”?

Answer: Yes.

Q11. Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?

Answer: No.

Q12. As recommended in the Patient Safety Alert, have you identified “an appropriate clinical leader to co-ordinate implementation of this alert”?

Answer: Yes.

Q13. What are the contact details for the “appropriate clinical leader”(ie name, position, telephone and email)?

Answer:

- Community sector –Sarah Aungiers, Continence Specialist Nurse 01388 455255 sarah.aungiers@nhs.net
- Acute Sector –Michelle Henderson, Bowel Specialist Nurse 0191 333 2812 michelle.henderson2@nhs.net

Q14. Why has your Trust not appointed an “appropriate clinical leader”?

- (a) Alert implemented without appointment of a clinical leader
- (b) Took no action following Patient Safety Alert, as policy already in place
- (c) Took no action. No existing policy in place
- (d) Other

Answer N/A.

Q15. Are your newly registered nurses able to demonstrate the nursing procedures as required in Annexe B, section 6.5 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council’s document ‘Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses’?

Answer: No. The Trust is seeking assurances from our partner HEI on this point.

Technical Note – Relevant annexe reads:-

“Annexe B

6: Use evidenced based, best practice approaches for meeting needs for care and support with bladder and bowel health

6.5: Administer enema, suppositories and undertake manual evacuation when appropriate.”

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