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Request for Information Reference: 03.19.21

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Email only

8 April 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 13 March 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 palliative care. Specifically you requested information as follows:

1. *In the year of 2018, how many patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 were placed on palliative care?*

Answer: No patients were placed on palliative care. Our records show that during 2018 (January - December) the Trust had 707 patients over 75 years marked as “end of life care” (EOL).

2. *In the year of 2018, how many patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 that were placed on palliative care passed away?*

Answer: 646 patients who were marked as EOL died during the admission.

3. *In the year of 2018, patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 that were placed on palliative care who passed away – what were the original admissions/diagnosis' of these patients?*

Answer: Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet and note, there are 10 patients with no diagnosis as they were in GP beds at the community hospitals and as such are not included in our spells table.

4. When did your Trust stop using the Liverpool Care Pathway guidelines?

Answer: 2014.

5. In the year of 2018, how many patients admitted to the hospitals within your Trust over the age of 75 were placed on an end of life care plan that followed the guidelines of NICE?

Answer: The Trust does not record information in a way which enables us to provide the detail required to answer this question.

6. Does your Trust use palliative sedation on patients over the age of 75?

Answer: Palliative sedation is a rare procedure. The palliative care service cannot recall any patients in the Trust Hospitals who required terminal sedation.

7. Did your Trust receive financial incentive for placing patients on the Liverpool Care Pathway from 1990 to 2013?

Answer: The amount of money the Trust has received varies from year to year because the amount of CQUIN money allocated to implementation of the LCP varies. Last year the CQUIN money also related to uptake of an end of life education programme for nursing staff. It has never related to the absolute number of patients who are put on the LCP but rather whether all wards are using it appropriately and documenting care of patients on the LCP appropriately.

8. How much financial incentive did your Trust receive for placing patients on the Liverpool Care Pathway from 1990 to 2013?

Answer: Please see the answer to question 7.

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