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Email only

2 May 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 2nd April 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 Medicines management for Parkinson's patients. Specifically you requested information as follows:

Training and staff awareness

Q1. What training is provided/sourced by the Trust to raise awareness among staff (in particular ward based staff) about the needs of inpatients with Parkinson's, particularly around timing of medication for these patients?

Q2. How many a) staff overall and b) ward based staff have undertaken such training during 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 to date?

Answer: Q1/2: There is no specific training in the Trust that has time allocated. However the wards where patients regularly admit Pd patients are encouraged to do the online PD UK course for both RGN and HCA's. The PD nurses regularly do ad hoc teaching on wards, Parkinson's awareness week, and Apo morphine training. We have training and reporting system for *Get it on time*.

Get in on time is a big priority and with Epma we are able to see if doses are missed, and contact the wards if we have the capacity. We do receive monthly reports from Epma.

Alert system

Q1. Does the Trust have any kind of electronic (or other) alert system in place to flag to the Parkinson's service when a person with the condition is admitted to hospital in a) a planned way and b) as an emergency?

Q2. If the Trust does not have an alert system, how are the Parkinson's specialist service notified and subsequently involved in the care of a person admitted with Parkinson's (whether or not Parkinson's is the reason for admission)?

Answer: The Trust also has an alert system connected to EPMA. We need to input a health issue when the patient is diagnosed and we then receive an email (to a generic email address that we all have access to) giving us details of the patient and ward. This tends to run 24 - 36 hours behind.

Self-administration of medication policies

Q1. Does the Trust have a self-administration of medication policy? If a policy does not currently exist, are there any current plans to implement one?

Q2. If a self-administration policy is not implemented, why is this the case?

Q3. If a self-administration policy is in place what systems and protocols are in place to a) ensure full and effective implementation and b) monitor its implementation?

Answer: Patients can self-medicate if capable and in line with the ward Patients on Apo morphine often self-administer.

Carers

Q1. Does the Trust have a policy that allows carers to visit the person with Parkinson's they care for outside of visiting hours?

Q2. What training do ward staff receive to ensure they fully understand how a carer can support an inpatient with things such as mobilising and their medication regime etc?

Q3. What systems and protocols are in place for ward staff to work with carers supporting the person with Parkinson's in hospital to ensure flexibility when the need arises?

Answer: Carers: There is no specific policy. Carers attending out of visiting hours is at the discretion of the ward manager. The Pd nurses support both carers and patients whilst in patients, via ward visits and telephone.

Q1. Is the Trust aware of the practical resources available from Parkinson's UK to support Parkinson's patients getting their medication on time (e.g. laminate bedside clocks, washbags) and how to access these resources?

Q2. Does the Trust make use of these practical resources?

Answer: All pd Uk resources are available via the nurses. Wards use the laminated clocks, timers on the pods and have been provided with timers also.

Patient safety incidents

Q1. Are incidents of a) missed Parkinson's medication doses and b) delays to the administration of doses of Parkinson's medication reported as patient safety incidents through local reporting arrangements?

Q2. a) How many Parkinson's patient safety incidents relating to medication were recorded in your Trust in the last reporting period?

Q3. How many complaints has the Trust received about missed or delayed administration of Parkinson's medication in a) 2017/2018 and b) 2018/2019 to date?

Answer: Trustwide there have been 5 safeguards this year regarding missed or late doses of medication. They were all classed as minimal harm.

We have a 'report' system on epma which lists patients on all wards that are prescribed parkinson's medication. This is checked daily and this system updates three times a day.

The Trust is not aware of any complaints.

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