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Request for Information Reference: 04.19.26

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Email only

15 May 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 12 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 example of letter for downs syndrome. Specifically you requested information as follows:

I wish to make a FOI request to ascertain the language/terminology used when screening/diagnostic results for Down syndrome are given in a written format, e.g. letter by post, email etc. to expectant parents.

Please could you send me examples of the contents of such letters/emails used to report results of screening tests? (Please also indicate if you don't report such results in written format, but only verbally).

If different hospitals/maternity units within your Trust use different letters/emails, please send me examples of each units correspondence identifying name of each hospital/maternity unit.

Please send me an example of all of the following that are in use:

a) Letter/email reporting low chance combined or quadruple screen results

Answer: The Trust use a standard letter generated from Newcastle Laboratory. Please find attached information as requested; the attached letters are fictional examples of the letter that the Trust sends. These are generated from the system at Newcastle laboratory and sent to us via e-reporting system, we download them daily, check details and send to women via first class post.

b) Letter/email reporting high chance combined or quadruple screen results

Answer: The Trust reports high chance by telephone and includes an offer for a face to face appointment.

c) Letter/email reporting low chance NIPT results

Answer: The Trust does not perform NIPT.

d) Letter/email reporting high chance NIPT results

Answer: The Trust does not perform NIPT.

e) Letter/email reporting 'no result' NIPT results

Answer: The Trust does not perform NIPT.

f) Letter/email reporting negative QF-PCR/FISH CVS results

Answer: The Trust refer to RVI or JCUH for CVS/Amnio they contact woman with results.

g) Letter/email reporting positive QF-PCR/FISH CVS results

Answer: The Trust refer to RVI or JCUH for CVS/Amnio they contact woman with results.

h) Letter/email reporting negative full karyotype CVS results

Answer: The Trust refer to RVI or JCUH for CVS/Amnio they contact woman with results.

i) Letter/email reporting positive full karyotype CVS results

Answer: The Trust refer to RVI or JCUH for CVS/Amnio they contact woman with results.

j) Letter/email reporting negative amniocentesis result

Answer: The Trust refer to RVI or JCUH for CVS/Amnio they contact woman with results.

k) Letter/email reporting positive amniocentesis result

Answer: The Trust refer to RVI or JCUH for CVS/Amnio they contact woman with 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.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer