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Request for Information Reference: 06.20.37

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Email only

27 July 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 29 June 2020 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to dermatology and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Question 1

- a. Please confirm how many (i) dermatology consultants and (ii) dermatology specialist nurses are currently in post in your NHS Trust?**

There are 4 dermatology consultants and 3 dermatology specialist nurses currently in post at the Trust.

- b. Please confirm how many (i) dermatology consultant and (ii) dermatology specialist nurse posts are currently vacant in your NHS Trust?**

There are 3 dermatology consultant posts and 1 dermatology specialist nurse post currently vacant in the Trust.

Question 2

- a. Please confirm whether your NHS Trust has a dedicated service/clinic for the prescribing and administration of biologic therapies for atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)?**

Yes, the Trust does have a dedicated service/ clinic for the prescribing and administration of biologic therapies for atopic dermatitis.

- b. If 'No' answered to question 2a, please confirm how the initiation of biologic therapies are managed locally in patients with atopic dermatitis?**

N/A.

- c. If 'Yes' answered to question 2a, and an alternative provider delivers this service, please confirm (i) the name of the provider and (ii) how many dermatology consultants and dermatology specialist nurses are involved in this service?**

N/A.

Question 3

Please confirm how many (i) dermatology consultants and (ii) dermatology specialist nurses are responsible for delivering biologic treatment for atopic dermatitis within your trust?

There are 4 dermatology consultants and 3 specialist nurses responsible for delivering biologic treatment for atopic dermatitis within the Trust.

Question 4

- a. Please confirm whether your NHS Trust has a documented protocol/pathway for the treatment of atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)?**

The department follows British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) guidance for prescribing biologics in atopic eczema.

- b. If 'Yes' answered to 4a, please confirm whether that protocol/pathway includes provision for the use of biologic therapies as a treatment option for moderate/severe atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)?**

Yes, the protocol/ pathway includes provision for the use of biologic therapies as a treatment option for moderate/ severe atopic dermatitis.

- c. If 'Yes' answered to 4a, please provide a copy of the treatment protocol/pathway?**

The Trust follows the BAD Guidelines and has no atopic dermatitis pathway once the patients are seen in clinic. The BAD Guidelines can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.bad.org.uk/healthcare-professionals/clinical-standards/clinical-guidelines>

Question 5

- a. **Please confirm whether your NHS Trust has a multi-disciplinary team in place to treat patients diagnosed with atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)?**

No the Trust does not have a multi-disciplinary team in place to treat patients diagnosed with atopic dermatitis.

- b. **If 'Yes' answered to 5a, please outline what interventions and services the multi-disciplinary team can offer patients (e.g. psycho-dermatology service)?**

N/A.

Question 6

- a. **Please confirm whether you have taken up any Free of Charge (FOC) Medicine Schemes from 2018 - 2020 (Yes/No)?**

The Trust has not taken on any Free of Charge schemes from 2018-2020.

- b. **Please provide a copy of your organisations policy on free-of-charge schemes?**

Regionally the Trust has agreed to follow the English RMOC guidance on Free of Charge schemes. These can be viewed through the following link:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/free-of-charge-foc-medicines-schemes-rmoc-advice-for-adoption-as-local-policy/>

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 on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer