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Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100

Request for Information Reference: 11.20.06

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Email only

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 2nd November 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 message exchange system and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

We have been informed by NHS Improvement that this Trust currently uses the Message Exchange for Social Care & Health (MESH) tool to identify overseas visitors who may be eligible for NHS charging.

I would like to FOI request answers to the following six questions relating to the use of this tool:

1. When did the Trust adopt this tool?

October 2019.

2. Please provide copies of any meeting minutes or email correspondence with the Department of Health and Social Care or NHS England pertaining to the adoption or ongoing use of the MESH tool? Please also provide any documents/ guidance sent to your trust regarding this?

Please see Attachment 1; NHSI funnel MESH presentation, which Trust staff were provided with for training and the MESH user guide.

3. Please provide copies of any documents outlining the rationale for the adoption and use of the MESH tool by the Trust. If available please include equality impact assessments, data protection assessments, and any local policies about the use of the MESH?

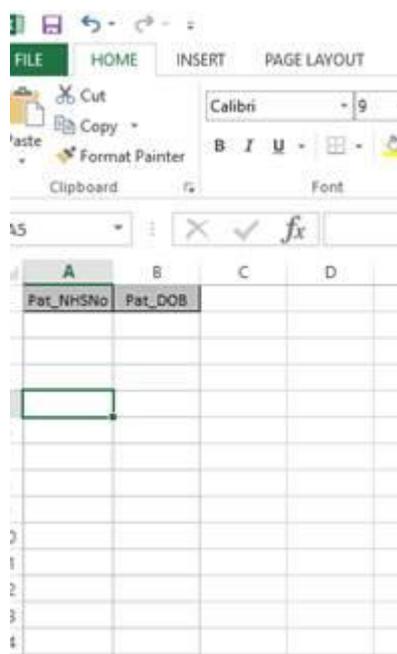
Please see Attachment 2; MESH user guide.

4. How frequently are patient records submitted to MESH? i.e. on a daily/ weekly basis?

Patient records are submitted on a weekly basis to MESH.

**5. What patient information is submitted to the MESH tool?
Please supply screenshots of an empty submission template if available?**

NHS number and Date of Birth.



6. Does the Trust upload the electronic records of all patients accessing Trust services to the MESH system? Yes/ No?

No.

6a - If no, what criteria/ algorithm does the Trust use to determine which patient records are uploaded? Please provide a copy of any policies or documents specifying the criteria determining which patient records are submitted to the MESH tool?

The Trust only uploads any patient with an NHS number of 7 who are older than 18 years. See Attachment 3; local procedure 'R38 Upfront charging for overseas visitors for NEW outpatient attendances'.

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