

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100

Request for Information Reference 11.20.46

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

31 December 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 27 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 self-discharge from hospital / discharge against medical advice and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. An electronic copy of any policies, procedures or guidelines within the Trust regarding or relating to patient discharge from hospital: specifically**
 - a. Patient self-discharge from hospital** Please see Attachment 1
 - b. Discharge against medical advice** Please see Attachment 1
 - c. Missing/Absconded patients** Please see Attachment 2

- 2. “Your 30-day readmission rates from the dates of 01/05/2020 to 01/11/2020 for patients who were:**

- a. Admitted in an emergency (on the original spell/admission)**

14.3% of all emergency admissions discharged were readmitted within 30 days. Please note, this is not an exact rate as it does not take into account Cancer or End of Life Care.

- b. Chose to self-discharge/ discharge against medical advice”**

22.7% of all emergency admissions discharged with the discharge method code of Self Discharge readmitted within 30 days. Please note, this is not an exact rate as it does not take into account Cancer or End of Life Care.

Finally, from your website I have identified that within your Trust there is an Emergency Department and potentially an AMU (Acute Medical Unit) or equivalent. Could you also please confirm whether there are any wards/ units within your Trust that:

1. Provide assessment, investigation and treatment for patients presenting as medical emergencies?

There is currently provision for emergency patients on two acute sites; into the Emergency Departments (ED) or Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) areas and Admissions Medical Units (AMU). The Trust also has a clinical advice telephone line.

2. Accept patients referred from a GP or admitted through the Emergency Department?

The AMU accepts patients directly referred from GP's to the unit but at times of extreme pressure, GP surgeries divert patients to the ED as required.

3. Have a designated assessment area as well as bed spaces?

There are no designated assessment areas and patients are directed to the most appropriate area; for example if they require AMU they go to AMU

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