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Request for Information Reference: 02.21.33

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Email only

18 March 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 23 February 2021 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 template letters and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please can you send me examples of the following:

- 1. Letters sent to expectant women advising of screening tests following combined/ quadruple screen testing for Downs Syndrome? I understand the letter may be different depending on whether results are low or high chance so please send examples of each?**

Please see attachments 1-4 for examples of the letters which differ depending on the result. Please note that letters relating to low chance are sent direct from the screening laboratory in Newcastle and as such patients in the whole region receive the same letters.

- 2. Letters/ results from Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT), again high and low chance examples if different?**

The Trust does not offer NIPT, it is not available on the NHS until 1 June 2021.

- 3. Examples of information e.g. letters, leaflets, signposting etc. shared with expectant women about these tests (combined/quadruple screening and NIPT)?**
- 4. Any information shared with expectant women about Downs Syndrome itself (including guidance on pregnancy/care when given an antenatal diagnosis)?**

The Trust uses the National leaflets; 'Screening Test for you and your baby', Public Health England invasive Test leaflet. The Trust also directs patients to the NHS website and Down's syndrome association or SOFT (Support Organisation for Trisomies 18/13) for Edwards and Patau's syndromes.

Please see the following links to leaflets but note that the Trust refers patients to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle or to James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough for diagnosis and the women are issued their results by these hospitals.

Leaflets and info

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/screening-tests-for-you-and-your-baby>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cvs-and-amniocentesis-diagnostic-tests-description-in-brief/nhs-fetal-anomaly-screening-programme-chorionic-villus-sampling-cvs-and-amniocentesis-information-for-parents>
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/downs-syndrome/?authentic_user=AvonValley%5C09HuntMeg&authentic_user_sig=d964fd94cf7b708935ea9b657304bc9a&authentic_session=77ec002ceba26ebd9e69faefd3b7c575&authentic_session_sig=dbfc6bf002cbe7115de915c96d34e8a8
<https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/your-pregnancy-care/screening-for-downs-edwards-patau-syndrome/>

Support organisations

<https://www.arc-uk.org/>
<https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/>
<https://www.soft.org.uk/>

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