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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
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Request for Information Reference: 06.21.50

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

19 July 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 21st June 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 deaths involving prescription drugs and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. How many patients at your hospital have been treated for illness related to pregabalin or gabapentin each year?

In order to provide an accurate response to your question, a review of the records of 98 patients would need to be undertaken. The Trust estimates that in order to do so would exceed the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

The Trust is able to provide data based on a report using a secondary code of diagnosis: Y46.6 Adverse effects of other and unspecified anti epileptics, in order to identify patients who had conditions associated with the medications in your request. The data produced from this report, however, will also include patients who were treated for an illness to any other anti-epileptic drug and as such it is not possible to specify which cases were related to pregabalin or gabapentin

Year	Elective In Patient	Non-Elective In Patient	Total
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2002	0	1	1
2003	0	0	0
2004	0	2	2
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	2	2
2007	0	1	1
2008	0	2	2
2009	0	2	2
2010	0	6	6
2011	0	7	7
2012	2	5	7
2013	0	7	7
2014	0	5	5
2015	0	7	7
2016	0	10	10
2017	1	10	11
2018	3	8	11
2019	0	10	10
2020	1	4	5
2021	0	2	2
Total	7	91	98

2. How many patients at your hospital have died after taking pregabalin or gabapentin each year?

Of the patients identified in question 1 there were zero patients recorded as having died as a result.

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. I am sorry that I have not been able to provide all of the information you requested, however I hope that my explanation as to why this is not possible has been satisfactory. 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.cddffoi@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

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator