

Date: 31 August 2018

Re: Freedom of Information Request
Ref: 164-2018

Thank you for your email dated 15th August 2018, providing clarification on the above mentioned FOI request.

The information that you require is as follows:

- 1. As a trust, what protocols do you have in place for managing patients to prevent infection in the patient pathway?**

All Infection Prevention and Control Policies are geared towards preventing and/or controlling infections in patients. These include examples such as: Multiresistant bacteria Policy and screening algorithm, MRSA Policy and screening algorithm, Standard Precautions Policy, Isolation Policy (additional precautions).

Clinical pathways may require certain procedures to be done before the patient can be safely treated and some patients will receive antibiotic prophylaxis.

- 2. Do you have a policy for routine testing for bacterial infections a) in all patients b) in high risk patients only?**

No routine testing for bacterial infection but screening processes to detect the presence of bacteria (colonisation). All patients symptomatic of infection will have appropriate diagnostic samples collected and sent for microbiology testing. For example patients with diarrhoea will have faeces samples sent – people with likely infected wounds will have wound swabs sent. Patients embarking on certain chemotherapy regimen will have tests for latent infections such as TB before receiving some immunosuppressive treatment.

- 3. Do you have a policy for routine testing for viral infections a) in all patients b) in high risk patients only?**

As above - all patients symptomatic of viral infection will have appropriate diagnostic viral samples sent (for example patient with flu-like symptoms will be tested for respiratory viruses.) Patients receiving certain chemotherapy or immunotherapy medications may be also screened for current or previous viral infections before they are able to proceed with immunosuppressive treatment.

4. Is isolation the protocol for high risk patients? If not, please can you confirm what protocols are in place?

Isolation is used if an individual patient poses a risk to other patients – the level of isolation depends on the symptoms or the type of infection diagnosed. Also patients would be isolated if they are at significant risk of infection due to treatment (such as bone marrow transplant).

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the email address provided below.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for this to be investigated internally.

If you are dissatisfied with the information you have received, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Both processes will be handled in accordance with our Trust's Freedom of Information Policy and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Internal investigation and internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Freedom of Information Review, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 4JY

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal investigation/review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

In order for us to ensure customer satisfaction and to monitor compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we would be grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to complete a short feedback form via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H39RFMM>