

Date: 25 March 2019

Re: Freedom of Information Request
Ref: 60- 2019

Thank you for your email dated 25th February 2019 requesting information regarding bowel care.

The information that you require is as follows:

Q1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No**

Q2. Following recommendation of this patient safety alert, did the Trust “review your local clinical policy and guidance relating to bowel assessment and management”?

- (a) Yes – produced a new policy
- (b) Yes - revised an existing policy
- (c) Yes – retained existing policy
- (d) No – did not review an existing policy
- (e) No – no bowel assessment and management policy in place**

Q3. Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your trust in August 2018?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) No bowel assessment and management policy in place**

Q4. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal faeces?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q5. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Digital rectal stimulation?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q6. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Trans anal irrigation?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q8. Has the Trust “reviewed your local education and training provision for interventional bowel management” as recommended in the Patient Safety Alert?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q9. As requested by the Patient Safety Alert, has the trust developed “an action plan to ensure patients have adequate and timely access to staff who are trained appropriately to carry out these procedures, including in the evening and at weekends”?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q10. Has the Trust “shared your reviewed local guidance, advice on how to identify staff who can provide Digital Removal of Faeces, and the key messages in this alert with medical, nursing and other relevant clinical staff”?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q11. Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q12. As recommended in the Patient Safety Alert, have you identified “an appropriate clinical leader to co-ordinate implementation of this alert”?

(a) Yes (please answer Q13, but ignore Q14)

(b) No (please answer Q14, but ignore Q13)

Q13. What are the contact details for the “appropriate clinical leader”(i.e. name, position, telephone and email)?

N/A

Q14. Why has your Trust not appointed an “appropriate clinical leader”?

(a) Alert implemented without appointment of a clinical leader

(b) Took no action following Patient Safety Alert, as policy already in place

(c) Took no action. No existing policy in place

(d) Other

Q15. Are your newly registered nurses able to demonstrate the nursing procedures as required in Annexe B, section 6.5 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council’s document ‘Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses’?

Staff are able to administer enema’s and suppositories as per guidance, but not manual evacuation.

Technical Note – Relevant annexe reads:-

“Annexe B

6: Use evidenced based, best practice approaches for meeting needs for care and support with bladder and bowel health

6.5: Administer enema, suppositories and undertake manual evacuation when appropriate.”

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>