



**The Clatterbridge
Cancer Centre**
NHS Foundation Trust

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Date: 26 June 2019

Re: Freedom of Information Request
Ref: 150- 2019

Thank you for your email, dated the 6th June 2019 requesting information which sets out what steps the Trust has taken to implement each of the recommended actions (1 to 5) outlined in the Management of Hyperkalaemia PSA.

The information that you require is as follows:

In 2018 NHS Improvement issued a Patient Safety Alert (PSA), entitled [Resources to support safe and timely management of hyperkalaemia \(high level of potassium in the blood\)](#) which outlined specific actions for NHS trusts to implement in order to improve safety for patients at risk of hyperkalaemia. The deadline for completion was 8th May 2019. NHS Improvement's recommendations were to:

1. Identify a senior clinician in the organisation to lead the response to the alert
2. Review or produce local guidance (including key steps or easy reference guides) for the management of hyperkalaemia that aligns with the evidence-based sources highlighted by NHS Improvement
3. Ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff including bank and agency staff
4. Ensure relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice by revising local training and audit
5. Use local communication strategies to make all staff aware that hyperkalaemia is a potentially life-threatening condition and that its timely identification, treatment and monitoring during and beyond initial treatment is essential

I would like to request information which sets out what steps the Trust has taken to implement each of the recommended actions (1 to 5) outlined in the *Management of Hyperkalaemia* PSA. Specifically, I request the following information relating to the PSA:

1. Has a senior clinician in the Trust been appointed to lead the response to this alert?

	Your response
If yes, please name the individual	Caroline Brammer - Clinical Director
If no, please specify the reason for the lack of appointment and anticipated timelines for an appointment to be made	

2. Has the trust reviewed existing - or produced new - local guidance for the management of hyperkalaemia?

	Your response
If yes, please share the relevant guidance and provide details of any changes made during the review	Yes – The Trust follows the Cheshire and Mersey Critical Care Network Guidance. A copy of this is available upon request.
If no, please specify why this has not taken place and any future plans to do so	

3. Has the trust taken steps to ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff?

	Your response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken	Yes, guidance is made available on Trust Intranet
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future plans to do so	

4. Has the trust revised local training and audit to ensure that relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice?

	Your response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken and signpost to updated documents	<p>An audit is planned in Quarter 3 to review management against the protocol.</p> <p>The Royal Hospital emergency medicine App is made available for use by the junior doctors on the ward computers.</p>
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future timelines in doing so	

5. Has the trust used local communication strategies to raise staff awareness of hyperkalaemia diagnosis and treatment?

	Your response
If yes, please specify the measures taken	<p>Yes, this has been included in our Trust Team Brief update which is distributed to all staff.</p>
If no, please specify the reasons why and any future plans to do so	

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>