

Date: Friday, 29th July 2022
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5274

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5274

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 21st July 2022.

Your request was as follows:

Under the freedom of information act 2000, I am requesting the following information on the NHS discharge medicine service (DMS), which became a nationally commissioned service on 15 February 2021.

1) When did your trust begin referring patients through the NHS DMS?

There is no formal arrangement in place for automated referral / discharge notification to community pharmacies. For patients on blister packs, there are ad hoc arrangements where discharge prescriptions are faxed to the community pharmacy, and it is possible that some of these patients are then put through the DMS system by the community pharmacy. We have no way of knowing numbers.

2) How many patients has your trust referred to community pharmacies through the DMS between 15 February 2021 and 14 July 2022?

a. How many patients has your trust discharged in total within this timeframe?

2) Same as above.

2a) 19,610 patients were discharged from the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust between 15 February 2021 and 14 July 2022.

3) According to national guidance for operating the DMS, trusts are responsible for developing their own eligibility criteria for patients referred through the service that meet "local population needs" (see page 13). Please could you supply a copy of your trust's eligibility criteria for referring patients through the DMS?

The criteria listed in the SOP are:

Some patients may also be suitable for a direct referral to the nominated community pharmacy or for more in-depth information transfer. Suitable reasons include (but are not limited to):

- Information about medication changes
- Blisterpack update information
- Relevant clinical information e.g. AKI, ACEi on hold
- Referral into the New Medicines Service (NMS)
- Referral for a Medication Use Review (MUR)
- Patient adherence problems

- Patient taking unlicensed medicines
- Patient has difficulty swallowing
- Patient confused about medicines

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. 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 the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5274 in any future communications.

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

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information