15 June 2022

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust

Freedom of Information Officer

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Under the Freedom of Information Act please can you supply the following information:

The NPSA[[1]](#footnote-1) and the recent HSIB investigation into nasogastric tubes[[2]](#footnote-2) have reinforced the need to have clear and transparent reporting for X ray requests and interpretation of nasogastric tube placement.

*“X-ray checking procedures must be timely and carried out by clinicians assessed as*

*competent to do so. All results should be confirmed and recorded in the patient record*

*ensuring the most current x-ray for the correct patient is reviewed, the four criteria for*

*confirming gastric placement and clear instructions as to actions required are*

*documented using a structured approach and communicated to the relevant nursing staff”.*

There is limited flexibility within the National Interim Clinical Imaging Procedure (NICIP) Code set and may require the PACS team to capture the inputs in the free text fields.

**Q1 Can you please confirm with the RIS/PACS team if the Trust have implemented the recommendations set out by the NPSA and reinforced in the HSIB report for X Ray reporting?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Yes** | **Yes NPSA** |
| **No** |  |

**Q2 Can you please confirm the number of “Plain Film Chest X-Ray” requests (XCHES) where a nasogastric tube / NG tube was specified as free text in the clinical indication field or requested as “XR Nasogastric tube position” (XNASG) for the period from April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of cases reported** | |
| **XCHES + free text** | 1,051 |
| **XNASG** |  |
| **Other** |  |
| **Total** |  |

**Q3 Based on the response to Q2 can you please confirm if the reason for the request was captured: confirmation of 1st placement, suspected** **dislodgment / displacement of established nasogastric tube or simply not reported in the clinical indication field?**

**PLEASE SEE WCFT AUDIT INFORMATION:**

**Audit to Assess the Suitability of Line Algorithm for Visualisation of Nasogastric Tubes - Re-audit April 2022**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary of Findings:**   * 100% Compliance for visualisation of NG tube * 74.5% demonstrated the NG tip 9 (80.3% 2021) * 98% demonstrated the Carina (98.5% 2021) * 93% were diaphragm centred (97% 2021) * 89% of examinations had both images on PACS (+/- line algorithm) (95.5%2021) |
| **Key success:**   * 100% Compliance for visualisation of NG tube |

(This may include the SNoMED codes: Migration Of Nasogastric Tube (Disorder) 473160008)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1st Placement** | **Dislodgement / Displacement** | **Not reported** |
| **Number reported** |  |  |  |

**Q4 Based on your response to Q3 can you please confirm if the site of the nasogastric tube was reported and the overall number with specific attention to the lung or oesophagus or in the stomach and safe to feed?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1st Placement** | | | |
|  | **Safe to feed -Tube in stomach** | **Do not feed -**  **Tube in lung** | **Do not feed - Tube in oesophagus** | **Not reported** |
| **Number reported** |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Dislodgement / Displacement** | | | |
|  | **Safe to feed - Tube in stomach** | **Do not feed -**  **Tube in lung** | **Do not feed - Tube in oesophagus** | **Not reported** |
| **Number reported** |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Not stated** | | | |
|  | **Safe to feed -Tube in stomach** | **Do not feed -**  **Tube in lung** | **Do not feed - Tube in oesophagus** | **Not reported** |
| **Number reported** |  |  |  |  |

\* I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 12 - Requests where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

In response to your request, whilst we hold the information requested, we believe an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies to it. Section 12 of the Act allows public authorities to refuse to answer requests for information if the cost of complying would exceed the 18 hour appropriate limit prescribed in the Fees Regulations.

In order to respond to your request this would require an audit person reviewing all of the audit data to extract the information case by case. The time it would take to compile and collate the activity data required by means of a manual trawl of records would be in excess of this appropriate limit.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

1. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Patient_Safety_Alert_Stage_2_-_NG_tube_resource_set.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.hsib.org.uk/investigations-and-reports/placement-of-nasogastric-tubes/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)