The Walton Centre NHS
NHS Foundation Trust
Excellence in Neuroscience

Date: Thursday, 09th November 2023
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 6007

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6007

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 26th October 2023.
Your request was as follows:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My queries pertain to the use, development, and audit of Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

Specifically, I am seeking answers to the following questions:

1. General Information:

a. How many active Patient Group Directions (PGDs) does the Trust currently have in place?

b. In which departments or services within the Trust are PGDs most used?

a) The Walton Centre NH Foundation Trust (WCFT) have 14 PGDs.
b) Neurology and Radiology.

2. Usage of PGDs:

a. Over the past 3 years, how many patients have been treated under a PGD in the Trust?

b. How does the Trust ensure that PGDs are only used by those healthcare professionals competent to do so?

a) The WCFT are unable to provide this information as this information is not recorded.
b) The PGD document is reviewed by a senior pharmacist and approved by the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee to ensure that appropriate qualifications/competencies are specified on the PGD. Individual staff have to be signed off to use the PGD by an appropriate manager who confirms that they have the stated competencies.

3. Types of Medications:

a. Please provide a list of all medications currently administered under a PGD within the Trust.

b. Are there specific medications that the Trust has deemed unsuitable for PGD use? If so, which ones?

a) Dotarem injection
Iomeron injection

Lidocaine 1% injection
Flu vaccine
Sodium chloride 0.9% injection / infusion
Dysport injection
Botox injection
Xeomin injection
Codeine 30mg tablets
Salbutamol 5mg nebules
Sodium chloride 0.9% nebules

b) Mixture of steroid injection and local anaesthetic used for cranial nerve block.

4. Audit Policy:

a. How frequently does the Trust audit the use of PGDs?

b. What measures are in place to ensure the safe and appropriate use of PGDs, based on audit findings?

c. Have there been any adverse events or incidents in the past 3 years related to the use of PGDs? If so, how many and what were the main issues identified?

a) The WCFT do not have a formal audit schedule in place.
b) Monitoring by exception: any incidents reported would be noted and escalated as necessary by Pharmacy and the Trust Safer Medication Group.
c) None reported.

5. Review and Update:

a. What is the Trust's policy on the regular review and update of PGDs?

b. How often are PGDs typically reviewed and updated within the Trust?

c. Who is responsible for the creation, review, and update of PGDs within the Trust?

a) PGDs must be reviewed and updated every 3 years.
b) Every 3 years as a minimum.
c) Typically a senior member of the staff group requesting the PGD, always working with Pharmacy and other appropriate clinicians, then approval by Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.

6. Training:

a. What training does the Trust provide to staff regarding the use of PGDs?

b. How frequently is this training provided and updated?

a) Training specific to each PGD, plus general information about PGDs included in nurse routine medicines

management training.
b) Training specific to each PGD: before the individual is signed off, and then at point of reviewing and re-signing, or sooner if specified in the individual PGD. Nurse training is during initial preceptorship.

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 6007 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 by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHeshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely
Mike Burns
Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information