



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters

Chief Nurse

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Ref: FOI/2024/10048

Date Received: 8th August 2024

Response Due: 6th September 2024

Date: 5th September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 8th August 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1. **Can you advise how many incident forms have been completed in relation to extravasation injuries that have occurred on your children's ward in the last 5 years? Can you break these figures down into yearly totals please.**
2020 = <5
2021 = <5
2022 = <5
2023 = 10
2024 = 19
2. **How many of these extravasation injuries relate to the infusion of Acyclovir? Again, please could you break this figure down into yearly totals.**
2020 = 0
2021 = 0
2022 = <5
2023 = 6
2024 = 7
3. **Over the last 5 years how many in-patients have needed to receive any form of treatment due to extravasation injuries? Again, please break this down into yearly totals.**
The below figures are based on all inpatient referrals in the last 5 years, not children only.
2020 = 14

2021 = 22
2022 = 45
2023 = 167
2024 = 305

4. **Can you advise how many incident forms have been completed in relation to extravasation injuries that have occurred in your children's community nursing team in the last 5 years? Can you break these figures down into yearly totals please.**
0.
5. **How many of these extravasation injuries relate to the infusion of Acyclovir? Again, please could you break this figure down into yearly totals.**
0.
6. **Over the last 5 years how many community patients have needed to receive any form of treatment due to extravasation injuries? Again, please break this down into yearly totals.**
0.
7. **Can you provide a copy of the risk assessment that relates to infusions of Acyclovir?**
The Trust does not have individual IV drug risk assessments. The Trust subscribes to Medusa which provides details, information and risk assessments on all IV therapies which is maintained and updated externally.
8. **Have any rapid reviews been carried out in relation to patients that have received extravasation injuries either in the community or on the ward? If there have, please can you provide copies of these?**
The below figures are based on paediatric community and paediatric wards.
2020 = 0
2021 = 0
2022 = <5
2023 = 5
2024 = 0

From April 2024 in line with the PSIRF (Patient Safety Investigation Review Framework) all cases of extravasation across the Trust are reviewed via audit, themes are extrapolated from the audit and learning shared.

As each rapid review relates to a single patient and each case is different, releasing the rapid reviews would make the patients identifiable. Therefore, this information is being withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

9. **Have any additional safeguards been put in place in relation to infusions of acyclovir in the last 5 years? If there has, please explain what these are.**
- All extravasations are universally considered emergencies and prompt the same response.
 - Paediatric standards are that all infusions are monitored at least hourly.
 - All vascular access devices are checked for position and patency prior to use.
 - Paediatrics has noted that acyclovir is problematic with an increase in recognised extravasation injuries and occurrence of phlebitis.
 - Utilise Medusa system
 - Improvement work on the management of extravasation injuries is currently universal irrespective of drug
 - Training and education programs in place

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



KEVIN PARKER-EVANS

Kevin Parker-Evans MBA, FCMI, CMgr. RN Dip HE

Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Infection Prevention and Control

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111