

Ref: FOI/2024/9564

Date Received: 25th January 2024

Response Due: 22nd February 2024

Date: 23rd February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 25th January 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) Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust trained to recognise the symptoms of sodium nitrite poisoning?

WWL staff follow Toxbase guidance to recognise symptoms of poisoning and the recommended treatments for them.

2) Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust trained to treat patients suffering with sodium nitrite poisoning with the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue?

The Toxbase guidance includes the use of methylthioninium.

We are also aware of the National Patient Safety Alert concerning risk of death from unintended administration of sodium nitrite and WWLNHSFT complies with the guidance from that alert (attached for reference)

In the Trust induction medicines safety day, we talk about National Patient Safety Alerts and we also signpost staff towards Toxbase for specific clinical guidance

3) Does the A&E department at the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust routinely carry the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue?

YES, this is stocked on A&E

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masterman', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Gary Masterman
Deputy Chief Pharmacist

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