



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/9671

Date Received: 27th February 2024

Response Due: 28th March 2024

Date: 15th March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 27th February 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) In several physician associates (PAs) have erroneously prescribed medications to patients. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:

No prescriptions have ever been made by Physician associates at The Trust.

a) The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate?

N/A

b) The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions?

N/A

c) The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e. patients given medication?

N/A

- d) **The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e. patients not given medications?**

N/A

- e) **Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed?**

N/A

- f) **Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions?**

N/A

- g) **Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your trust (e.g. PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality)?**

N/A

- h) **What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?**

N/A

2) Several trusts have reported situations in which their physician associates (PAs) have erroneously ordered ionising radiation. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:

No procedures involving ionising radiation or contrast material have ever been requested by a Physician Associate at

- a) **Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation?**

N/A

- b) **Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation, and these requests were acted on (i.e. the patient received the scan with ionising radiation as requested by the PA)?**

N/A

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 horizontal line extending from the end.

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