

# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2023/9341

Date Received: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Response Due: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 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. General Information:**

**a. How many active Patient Group Directions (PGDs) does the Trust currently have in place?**  
156.

**b. In which departments or services within the Trust are PGDs most used?**  
The Accident and Emergency department have the highest number of PGDs in use, followed by the Radiology department and COPD Specialist Nurses.

**2. Usage of PGDs:**

**a. Over the past 3 years, how many patients have been treated under a PGD in the Trust?**  
The Trust does not record how many patients have been treated under a PGD.

**b. How does the Trust ensure that PGDs are only used by those healthcare professionals competent to do so?**  
The Trust has a PGD SOP and Policy that are in place that staff operating under them are expected to follow – please see attached.

**3. Types of Medications:**

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

- b. Are there specific medications that the Trust has deemed unsuitable for PGD use? If so, which ones?**
- Unlicensed medicines
  - Dressings, appliances, and devices
  - Radiopharmaceuticals
  - Abortifacients, such as mifepristone
  - Medications that are not a Prescription Only Medicine unless a good reason for doing so exists

**4. Audit Policy:**

- a. How frequently does the Trust audit the use of PGDs?**  
They are reviewed every 3 years.
- b. What measures are in place to ensure the safe and appropriate use of PGDs, based on audit findings?**  
The SOP and Policy support the safe and effective use of PGDs.
- 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?**  
There have been no incidents reported to Datix specifically involving the use of PGDs.

**5. Review and Update:**

- a. What is the Trust's policy on the regular review and update of PGDs?**  
PGDs must be reviewed every 3 years or sooner if the medication license or characteristics change in the meantime.
- b. How often are PGDs typically reviewed and updated within the Trust?**  
As above.
- c. Who is responsible for the creation, review, and update of PGDs within the Trust?**  
The ward/department leader for the staff group employing the PGD is responsible for the creation of PGDs – they would be 'author'  
All PGDs are reviewed by a clinician and pharmacist before being approved  
All PGDs are reviewed at a relevant Divisional Governance group before being approved  
The author is responsible for reviewing, updating and resubmitting to the people and groups above for renewal before 3 years from the date of commencement is up.

**6. Training:**

- a. What training does the Trust provide to staff regarding the use of PGDs?**  
Staff are trained on the PGDs that they sign up to by the ward/department leader in the area they are used. Staff are also signposted to the ElfH module on PGDs.
- b. How frequently is this training provided and updated?**
- Training is provided to all staff as they sign up to the PGDs in question.
  - The ward/dept. leader is expected to review this with staff annually.
  - The ElfH module is external to the Trust and so the enquirer should be directed to contact NHS England direct to answer how often their module is planned to be updated.

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 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