



**Wrightington,
Wigan and Leigh**
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance
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Ref: FOI2019/5438

Date Received: 6th June 2019

Response Due: 4th July 2019

12th June 2019

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:

Questions for consideration

In 2018 NHS Improvement issued a Patient Safety Alert (PSA), entitled [Resources to support safe and timely management of hyperkalaemia \(high level of potassium in the blood\)](#) which outlined specific actions for NHS trusts to implement in order to improve safety for patients at risk of hyperkalaemia. The deadline for completion was 8th May 2019. NHS Improvement's recommendations were to:

- 1) Identify a senior clinician in the organisation to lead the response to the alert
- 2) Review or produce local guidance (including key steps or easy reference guides) for the management of hyperkalaemia that aligns with the evidence-based sources highlighted by NHS Improvement
- 3) Ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff including bank and agency staff
- 4) Ensure relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice by revising local training and audit
- 5) Use local communication strategies to make all staff aware that hyperkalaemia is a potentially life-threatening condition and that its timely identification, treatment and monitoring during and beyond initial treatment is essential

I would like to request information which sets out what steps the Trust has taken to implement each of the recommended actions (1 to 5) outlined in the Management of Hyperkalaemia PSA. Specifically, I request the following information relating to the PSA:

1. Has a senior clinician in the Trust been appointed to lead the response to this alert? Yes

	Your response
If yes, please name the individual	Dr Stephen Gulliford
If no, please specify the reason for the lack of appointment and anticipated timelines for an appointment to be made	

2. Has the trust reviewed existing - or produced new - local guidance for the management of hyperkalaemia? Yes

	Your response
If yes, please share the relevant guidance and provide details of any changes made during the review	Please see attached
If no, please specify why this has not taken place and any future plans to do so	

3. Has the trust taken steps to ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff? Yes

	Your response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken	We are confident that all clinical staff are aware of the hyperkalaemia management. Guidelines are accessible on the Trusts Intranet site.
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future plans to do so	

4. Has the trust revised local training and audit to ensure that relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice? Yes

	Your response
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken and signpost to updated documents	We are undertaking an audit of hyperkalaemia management at the moment. This will be presented in due course.
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future timelines in doing so	

5. Has the trust used local communication strategies to raise staff awareness of hyperkalaemia diagnosis and treatment? Yes

	Your response
If yes, please specify the measures taken	A case of hyperkalaemia was presented at the Data Quality Executive Committee (DQEC) and informed the division of the change put in place to avoid happening again.
If no, please specify the reasons why and any future plans to do so	

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

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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, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless

you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF