Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6333

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
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23 December 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the supply of ICU medicines.

You asked:
1) Confirm or deny whether disruption to supply of ICU medicines is included as a risk on the Trust's risk register
2) Confirm or deny whether disruption to supply of noradrenaline is included as a risk on the Trust's risk register
3) With regards to the above 2 questions:
a. When were the risks put on the register b. When are they to be reviewed c. What significance status have they been given. e.g. use of a RAG-rating system
4) Provide the number of safety incidents recorded at your Trust which relate to the preparation and /or the manipulation/mixing of medicines in critical care areas between 1 January 2019 and 1 September 2020
5) Provide the number of safety incidents recorded at your Trust which relate to administration, preparation, and/or the manipulation/mixing of noradrenaline at the bedside between 1 January 2019 and 1 September 2020. Provide details of the reported cases.
6) Confirm or deny if your Trust has taken action to adhere to the guidance published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, titled Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines (December 2018), specifically with regards to appendix C and, "as outlined in the core guidance, manipulation of medicines in clinical areas is minimised and medicines are presented as prefilled syringes or other 'ready-to-administer' preparations wherever possible..."
https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines/professional-guidance-on-the-safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines
7) Confirm or deny if your Trust subscribes to and follows the guidance provided on IV administration of medication by the MEDUSA injectable medicines guide.

8) Supply evidence of the process the Trust has taken to address the principles outlined in the guidance above, specifically with regards to "the manipulation of medicines in clinical areas is minimised and medicines are presented as prefilled syringes or other 'ready-to-administer' preparations..."
9) Confirm or deny whether your Trust is stockpiling ready-to-use or ready-to-administer noradrenaline for the likely increased demand over the next 6 months (stockpiling is defined as retaining medicines with a shelf-life of at least 12 months)

Trust response:
1) Shortage of medical supplies including drugs and equipment was highlighted as part of the generic risk assessment completed for escalation of capacity during the COVID 19 pandemic.
2) Disruption of Noradrenaline supply was not specifically mentioned in the risk assessment.
3) With regards to the above 2 questions:
a. Placed on the risk register 11/04/2020
b. Risk downgraded from Red to Amber on 2/7/2020 as COVID numbers reducing, Risk replaced on 15/9/2020 as ICU back within normal footprint but risk remains
c. During initial surge was RED then downgraded to Amber
4) TWO incidents
5) ONE incident
6) Yes the Trust Medicines Policy was updated in 2020 and wording added to comply with Appendix C of the RPS guidance for use of pre-filled syringes. In addition to the medicines policy we also have a separate guideline: 'Prescribing, preparing and administering injectable medicines in clinical areas'
7) Yes we do
8) See Q6 above
9) No we are not stockpiling this medication