

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5313

Please reply to:
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14 March 2019

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 Bowel Management Patient Safety.

You asked:

Q1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?

Q2. Following recommendation of this patient safety alert, did the Trust “review your local clinical policy and guidance relating to bowel assessment and management”?

Q3. Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your trust in August 2018?

Q4. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal faeces?

Q5. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Digital rectal stimulation?

Q6. If admitted to the Trust will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Trans anal irrigation?

Q7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?

Q8. Has the Trust “reviewed your local education and training provision for interventional bowel management” as recommended in the Patient Safety Alert?

Q9. As requested by the Patient Safety Alert, has the trust developed “an action plan to ensure patients have adequate and timely access to staff who are trained appropriately to carry out these procedures, including in the evening and at weekends”?

Q10. Has the Trust “shared your reviewed local guidance, advice on how to identify staff who can provide Digital Removal of Faeces, and the key messages in this alert with medical, nursing and other relevant clinical staff”?

Q11. Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?

Q12. As recommended in the Patient Safety Alert, have you identified “an appropriate clinical leader to co-ordinate implementation of this alert”?

Q13. What are the contact details for the “appropriate clinical leader”(ie name, position, telephone and email)?

Q14. Why has your Trust not appointed an “appropriate clinical leader”?

Q15. Are your newly registered nurses able to demonstrate the nursing procedures as required in Annexe B, section 6.5 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council's document ‘Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses’?

Technical Note – Relevant annexe reads:-

“Annexe B

6: Use evidenced based, best practice approaches for meeting needs for care and support with bladder and bowel health

6.5: Administer enema, suppositories and undertake manual evacuation when appropriate.”

Trust response:

1. (b) No - this is currently in draft and has been circulated for comment
2. (e) No – no bowel assessment and management policy in place
3. (c) No bowel assessment and management policy in place
4. (b) No
5. (b) No
6. (b) No
7. (b) No
8. (b) No
9. (b) No- but have a working group looking specifically at this Patient Safety Alert.
10. (b) No- out for comment with key individuals before being shared with wider group within the trust.
11. (b) No
12. (b) No (please answer Q14, but ignore Q13)
13. Not applicable
14. (d) Other- current working on this policy within the trust.
15. (b) No