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NG17 4JL

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Join today: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

RE: Freedom of Information Request

5th March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 29th February 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do not hold information you have requested. We currently do not have Physician Associate roles specifically in the Trust.

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Home, Community, Hospital.

Patient Experience Team
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Chair Claire Ward
Chief Executive Paul Robinson

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

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:

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

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)?

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.