

17 May 2019

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Our Ref: FOI/03290

Thank you for your request concerning safer bowel care.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

QUESTIONS

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?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

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

- (a) Yes – produced a new policy
- (b) Yes - revised an existing policy
- (c) Yes – retained existing policy
- (d) No – did not review an existing policy
- (e) No – no bowel assessment and management policy in place

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

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) No bowel assessment and management policy in place

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

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

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

- (a) Yes
- (b) No



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

- (a) Yes**
- (b) No**

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

- (a) Yes**
- (b) No**

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

- (a) Yes**
- (b) No**

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”?

- (a) Yes**
- (b) No**

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”?

- (a) Yes**
- (b) No**

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?

- (a) Yes**
- (b) No**

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

- (a) Yes (please answer Q13, but ignore Q14)**
- (b) No (please answer Q14, but ignore Q13)**

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”?

- (a) Alert implemented without appointment of a clinical leader**
- (b) Took no action following Patient Safety Alert, as policy already in place**
- (c) Took no action. No existing policy in place**
- (d) Other**

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'?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

ANSWER

HPFT is committed to providing mental health provision to any person who is in need of our services. Where a patient has a specific physical health need we would make provision for that individual on a case by case basis and would take note of published guidance and best practise.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

