

Date: **17 July 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5266**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your requests for information below:

Your Request and Our Response (in bold)

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.

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:

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. The Trust has responded to your following questions relating to the PSA specified in your request for information:

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

	<i>Your response</i>
<i>If yes, please name the individual</i>	Yes. The alert was led by a designated Metabolic Consultant – James Davison
<i>If no, please specify the reason for the lack of appointment and anticipated timelines for an appointment to be made</i>	N/A

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

	<i>Your response</i>
<i>If yes, please share the relevant</i>	Yes. The guidance is available on the

<i>guidance and provide details of any changes made during the review</i>	Trust Intranet site with search terms hyperkalemia and hyperkalaemia. Please see attached the guidance. There is communication of this outlined in Action 5.
<i>If no, please specify why this has not taken place and any future plans to do so</i>	N/A

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

	Your response
<i>If yes, please outline the specific measures taken</i>	The information team uploaded the revised guidelines to the Trust intranet accessible to all staff. In the event a staff member wishes to access the hyperkalaemia guidelines they would enter the term hyperkalaemia or hyperkalemia in the search field and the attached Great Ormond Street PICU Guidelines for the management of Hyperkalaemia appears in the search results field which can be directly accessed as a link. The strategies employed to communicate this are outlined in Action 5.
<i>If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future plans to do so</i>	N/A

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

	Your response
<i>If yes, please outline the specific measures taken and signpost to updated documents</i>	An audit is currently in progress reviewing the management of patients with a documented serum potassium level greater than 7.0 mmol per litre recorded during May 2019 against the agreed standards. These results will inform local training programmes. The Patient Safety Alert was presented

	at the Patient Safety Outcomes Committee attended by senior directorate leads with a responsibility to disseminate key learning points.
<i>If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future timelines in doing so</i>	The audit is in progress currently and anticipated completion is September 2019; but will be the internal review to determine compliance with the management of hyperkalaemia guidance.

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

	Your response
<i>If yes, please specify the measures taken</i>	The guidance has been flagged through local Risk Action Groups and Directorate boards.
<i>If no, please specify the reasons why and any future plans to do so</i>	

Please note:

The information provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request was received by the Trust.

We trust the information provided is sufficient and helped to answer any issues, concerns or questions. Should you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information team

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

Email: foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk

[Enclosed – Your Rights – See next page]

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have received to your request for information, please contact the FOI team and quote your reference number on all correspondence relating to your request.

You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team
Great Ormond Street Hospital
LONDON
WC1N 3JH

If you are still not satisfied with your response, you also have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF