

Date: **8 May 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5167**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Your Request and Our Response (in bold)

The provision of safe care is a top priority for ‘Action Against Medical Accidents’ (AVMA) and we wish to remind NHS Trusts of the importance of implementing patient safety alerts in a timely manner.

The FOI applicant states that GOSH has not signalled completion of guidance concerning the following Patient Safety Alerts.

Alert title	Alert reference	Issue date	Completion deadline date	Status at 4 February 2019
Restricted use of open systems for injectable medication	NHS/PSA/D/2016/008	07-Sep-2016	07-Jun-2017	ONGOING
Resources to support safe transition from the Luer connector to NRFit for intrathecal and epidural procedures, and delivery of regional blocks	NHS/PSA/RE/2017/004	11-Aug-2017	11-Dec-2017	ONGOING

Under this FOI request we would like you to provide us with the following information, with dates and details (e.g., committee minutes, emails and other documents) concerning the following:

Please see our response to your following request for information (1-5); but see note below**

- 1. What action the Trust has taken to implement the Alert guidance by the completion deadline? The guideline for the restricted use of an open system is now closed. The delay in closing the alert related to one specific procedure where the specialty team had undertaken a thorough risk/benefit assessment with consensus that the procedure with (specific mitigations) could continue to employ an open system. This alert was subject to regular review at the Trust Patient Safety Outcomes Committee and was also presented at the**

Clinical Quality Review Group (CQRG) to ensure there was agreement at Trust Level that the mitigation taken for the use of an open system for one outstanding procedure is acceptable. This was agreed at the forum and the Alert has subsequently closed.

The Alert relating to implementing NRFit connections across the Trust is still open. There have been regular reviews of available products that comply with this alert but to date no products are compatible with the anaesthetic spinal/epidural equipment in the Trust. This is now under close scrutiny with procurement partners at GSST to achieve a greater range and scope of products for use. This is also regularly reviewed at the Trust's Patient Safety and Outcomes Committee.

2. *Why implementation of the Alert guidance has not occurred by the completion deadline?* **As stated above extra scrutiny was required for one procedure that was not compliant with the Open Systems Alert to ensure there was assurance that the mitigations in place minimised the potential risk. As stated above to date a suitable product has not been sourced to allow completion of the action plan.**
3. *When will Trust signal full compliance with the Alert guidance?* **This Alert cannot be closed until compatible products are secured. An action plan is being developed to address this matter; and a working group is to be set up to monitor progress with the aim to close the alert.**
4. *Have any patient safety incidents concerning the topic of the non-compliant Alert been reported in your trust since the Alert was published?* **No patient safety incidents have been reported relating to non-compliance with either of the Alerts listed above.**
5. *How will the process be improved in the future to ensure that Patient Safety Alerts will be implemented by the completion deadline?* **Patient safety alerts are monitored daily by the patient safety team who are responsible for the dissemination of alerts where appropriate trust wide ascertaining compliance and reporting progress into the Trusts executive team. We ensure that we have assurance of compliance with alert requirements ahead of closure which, as illustrated above, can be subject to unforeseen delays.**

Please Note: **

We do not centrally record the information you are seeking to obtain copies of committee minutes, emails and other documentations pertaining to your specific questions from 2016 (update to the date your

request was received on 08/04/2019). This would require a number of enquiries with individual staff members across various departments of the Trust; which is prior to conducting a search of the systems and records to identify, locate and extract any relevant information that would require a full review.

The Trust has estimated that to collate this level of information would certainly exceed the 18 hour cost limit to conduct a wide search across the relevant departments to identify and collate the information you have requested. Your request for information is refused under Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows the Trust to refuse an FOI request where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for the purposes of section 12 is defined by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 SI 2004 No 3244 ('Fees Regulation').

The appropriate cost limit under regulation 3 of the Fees Regulation for the Trust is £450. The Fees Regulation also states that all authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded if it would require more than 18 hours' work for the Trust to carry out the following activities in complying with the request:

- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

Please note:

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

I trust the information provided is sufficient and helps to answer any concerns, questions or issues you may have.

If you should have any further queries related to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team. Please ensure that the above reference number is quoted on any 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 not 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