

Date: **20 November 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5204 (Follow-up to FOIRQ5162)**

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

Thank you for your response to my FOI request.

In the response, you stated that “the Drug & Therapeutics Committee (DTC) made the decision that regular use of these drops is preferential, if they are without preservative”. I request that you please provide a clarification on the reasons for this decision, preferably by providing me with a copy of minutes from the DTC’s meetings where the use of mercaptamine/cysteamine eye drops were discussed.

Your Request

Thank you for your response to my FOI request.

In the response, you stated that “the Drug & Therapeutics Committee (DTC) made the decision that regular use of these drops is preferential, if they are without preservative”. I request that you please provide a clarification on the reasons for this decision, preferably by providing me with a copy of minutes from the DTC’s meetings where the use of mercaptamine/cysteamine eye drops were discussed.

Our Response

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust was already using Mercaptamine eye drops prior to the licensed product, which has been used for many years and formally approved. When the licensed product came to the market, there was no formal submission to DTC for the new product; because, at that time, the clinicians preferred to stick with a preservative free product (for an eye drop being used regularly and long term).

Whilst DTC were happy with the decision not to submit for a new product there are no formal minutes; because there was no new submission actually on the agenda. The Trust therefore continued using the original unlicensed product. However, we are aware that NHSE are due to review the commissioning of these products and will have to wait and see whether the review will inform of any change in practice.

Further information on the work programme (tab ID: 1832) is accessible via the following NHSE website link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/clinical-commissioning-policy-work-programme/>

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