

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-009

1 February 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do not hold the information you are requesting

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. 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

Q3. If admitted to the Trust, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal of faeces?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q4. 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

Q5. 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

Q6. Do you have ward-based staff skilled in supporting patients with neurogenic bowel care interventions, including the digital removal of faeces?

(a) Yes

(b) No

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

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q8. Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with the bowel care element of the patient's care?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q9. Does the Trust have an appropriate clinical lead in place (such as a Continence Manager) to manage the overall delivery of bowel care interventions to patients?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q10. What are the contact details for this clinical lead (i.e. name, job title, telephone number and email address)?

North Bristol NHS Trust hosts the spinal cord injury service. Please contact North Bristol NHS Trust foi@nbt.nhs.uk

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, 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:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust