

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-398

7 June 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 hold the information you are requesting

Q1a. With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, does your institution have a policy to flush the administration set to give the full dose of antibiotics in accordance with the following guidelines?

- The Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures, Tenth Edition, Chapter 15, which states: "After completion of an intermittent infusion, an appropriate diluent solution should be administered via the administration set. This is to ensure the full dose of medication has been administered to the patient."
- The "MEDUSA" injectable medicines guide instructions on how to administer intermittent infusions, which states: "Flush the administration set before it is disconnected with sufficient volume of sodium chloride (or compatible diluent) to ensure the total dose is given. Flush at the same rate the medicine was administered."
- The National Infusion and Vascular Access Society (NIVAS) "Intravenous Administration of Medicines to adults: Guidance on 'line flushing' Version 3 2021", which states: "At the end of the infusion, the medicine remaining in the infusion set should be flushed with sodium chloride 0.9% or other compatible diluent, using one of the methods described below."

Q1b. If the answer to Q1a is "yes", is your organisation fully compliant with your policy to flush the administration set to give the full dose of antibiotics in accordance with guidelines?

Q1c. If the answer to Q1a is "yes", do you follow method 1 or 2 as outlined by the NIVAS guidelines linked above?

Q2a. With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, if you do have a policy in place to flush the administration set, have you audited compliance with this policy?

Q2b. If the answer to Q2a is "yes", can you share the audit results? If so, please provide a copy as an attachment to your response to this FoIR.

Q3. What education measures have you put in place to ensure healthcare professionals

in your organisation understand:

- a. The existing guidance on flushing administration sets that are used for IV antibiotic infusions (as laid out in the sources above)?**
- b. The patient risks involved with failing to flush the residual volume of IV antibiotics in the administration sets?**
- c. The possible effects of not flushing the IV administration set containing IV antibiotics on antimicrobial resistance?**

Q4. With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, which of the following (if any) are included in your policy with regards to disposing of the administration set and residual volume of either the prescribed antibiotic or flushing solution?

- a. Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the yellow bag.**
- b. Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the orange bag.**
- c. Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the sharps bin.**
- d. Drip chamber/sharp are detached from the administration set line and the drip chamber/sharp disposed of in the sharps bin and the rest of the administration set line disposed of in the yellow bag.**
- e. Drip chamber/sharp is detached from the administration set line and the drip chamber/sharp disposed of in the sharps bin and the rest of the administration set line disposed of in the orange bag.**
- f. Other (please state)**

Please use the response template provided.

Please see our response in the attached document.

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