

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-694

16 October 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

I wish to make a FOI request around the prescribing of liothyronine on the NHS for the treatment of primary hypothyroidism, as it pertains to Professor Singhal's Endocrine Clinic at Weston General Hospital.

I would like to know the following:

- **The exact procedure (in detail) for getting a prescription for liothyronine on the NHS through Weston General Hospital, including all parties involved (GPs, endocrinologists, board members, etc) and timeframes for each stage**

Liothyronine is not prescribed by University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust to new patients. GPs do not prescribe it as it is classified as a red drug in the system formulary.

- **What documentation is required to get a prescription for liothyronine through Weston General Hospital and who to obtain it from**

There is no documentation as we do not offer this service.

- **How to make a formal prescription request to Weston General Hospital for liothyronine**

Liothyronine is not prescribed by University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust to new patients. GPs do not prescribe it as it is classified as a red drug in the system formulary.

- **Who to request a liothyronine prescription from at Weston General Hospital**

Not available to new referral patients.

- **Who can prescribe liothyronine at Weston General Hospital**

No one prescribes liothyronine at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the NHS to new patients.

• **What grounds (if any) there are for refusal to be prescribed liothyronine through Weston General Hospital and what evidence those grounds are based on**

This is based on lack of clinical evidence supporting the drug, the side effect risks associated with liothyronine and lack of monitoring tools for patients.

• **How to make an appeal against a refusal to be prescribed liothyronine by Weston General Hospital**

Please contact Patient Support and Complaints Team at PSCT@uhbw.nhs.uk

• **How a liothyronine prescription request is dealt with if the patient has a London-based GP and an NHS endocrinologist based at Weston General Hospital**

Not applicable as this is not prescribed for new patients.

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