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Request for Information Reference: 04.23.14

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

9th May 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 11th April 2023 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to Medicines and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. How many patients at your trust have been supplied medicines approved through the Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS) each year between April 2014 and April 2023?

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested as medications that are supplied via an EAMS schemes are cancer and are not easily identifiable on the Trust Pharmacy system as they do not have their own account. This would then require a manual search of every potential relevant medication as the entries on the system would not state which are EAMS and which are not.

Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

- 2. How many requests has your trust made to pharmaceutical companies for access to medicines offered through a company-led 'compassionate use' or 'free of charge' scheme each year between April 2014 and April 2023?**

One Patient

- a) How many patients have received treatment with unlicensed medicines obtained this way each year between April 2014 and April 2023?**

One Patient

- 3. How many requests have clinicians at your trust submitted to pharmaceutical companies for access to an unlicensed medicine to treat patients each year between April 2014 and April 2023, outside of a company-led scheme?**

Zero

- a) How many patients have received treatment with unlicensed medicines obtained this way each year between April 2014 and April 2023?**

Zero

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator