

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 07.24.06

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

Email only

4th July 2024

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 2nd June 2024 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 Virtual Wards and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1) Does your trust use virtual wards for any maternity/obstetrics patients? If no please go to the last question (question 2).

No

- a) **Is this provided internally (i.e. Trust versus private outsource), If outsourced which provider is responsible for delivering the virtual ward.**
- b) **How long have you been providing or had provision for this virtual ward (months)?**
- c) **If yes what obstetric/early pregnancy conditions do you currently use the virtual ward for:**
 - **Pre-eclampsia**
 - **Preterm prelabour rupture of membranes**
 - **Obstetric Cholestasis**
 - **Outpatient management of miscarriage**
 - **Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy**
 - **Hyperemesis gravidarum**

- Other please specify:
- d) Which diagnostic/monitoring tests do you provide as part of this service:
- Pulse
 - Temperature
 - Blood pressure
 - Pulse Oximetry
 - Blood tests (if so what tests and modality i.e. Point of care)
 - Urinalysis
 - Symptom questionnaire
 - Fetal monitoring
 - IV fluids
 - IV medications
 - Oral Medications
- e) Which categories of medications are administered:
- Antihypertensives
 - Antiemetics
 - Analgesia
 - Other please specify:
 - None
- f) What is the maximum frequency of monitoring provided?
- g) On average how many times a day will monitoring occur?
- h) Are abnormal results reviewed by the treating team or the virtual ward provider?
- i) Is there a time limit of how long patients can stay within the virtual ward e.g. two weeks. If yes how long is the duration?
- j) How is the virtual ward funded?

Not applicable

- 2) If you currently do not provide a virtual ward for maternity/obstetrics patients do you have plans to implement them and if so when is this expected to go live?

At present we do not provide a virtual ward for maternity patients however we are in the process of implementing this. A Standard Operating Procedure has been completed and is awaiting approval from governance prior to going live. This will be discussed at the next evidence based practice group this Friday 5/7/24. This will then need to be approved at the next governance meeting. Aim is to go live by end of August 2024.

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.cddffoi@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