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Request for Information Reference: 04.22.33

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Email only

17th May 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 14th April 2022 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 aortic dissection policies and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Do you have a policy and/or written procedures for how your trust responds to patients presenting at A&E with chest pain or suspected heart related conditions?

Yes

2. Do you have a policy and/or written procedures for managing suspected aortic dissection?

When a patient presents to ED with suspicion of dissection, a senior doctor is informed and an urgent CT scan is requested. Appropriate blood results are requested along with an ECG. As the referring hospital is James Cook University Hospital (JCUH), these scans are linked to their system to view. Once scan results are available the Cardiothoracic Team is contacted via telephone and a referral is made. Meanwhile the patient is given medical therapy for pain and high blood pressure. Depending upon the type of aortic dissection type A or B) they are treated medically or surgically and the advice of the Cardiothoracic Team is followed. If a transfer to JCUH is requested it is done as blue light urgent transfer.

3. Do you have a policy and/or written procedures for managing aortic dissection once diagnosed? Please provide a copy of these

The Trust utilises and follows detailed guidelines from the American College of Cardiology Foundation and the European Society of Cardiology.

- 4. If you have a policy or procedures in place regarding aortic dissection, what is the trust's process for ensuring that all clinical staff are made aware and are reminded?**

Not applicable please see the response to question 3.

- 5. If you provide training, please provide a copy of the training material. Do you have any training / induction to ensure that all staff are familiar with it?**

This forms part of the departmental induction training.

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