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Request for Information Reference: 05.22.20

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Email only

31st May 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 11th May 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 antibiotic treatment of sepsis and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. I'm wondering if you could obtain for on some new guidelines that permit nurses and other clinicians to initiate antibiotic treatment for suspected sepsis based on a NEWS score of 5 or more, rather than waiting for a confirmed diagnosis before initiating treatment. I understand that this is part of a push to improve the number of patients who received timely antibiotic treatment for sepsis. Would you be able to forward to me any policies, procedures or similar documentation in relation to this?**

The Trust are currently completing a pilot in the Emergency Department at Darlington Memorial Hospital whereby a Registered General Nurse (band 6 or above) can administer a single dose of intravenous tazocin for a patient with sepsis of unknown origin only. The patient group directive (PGD) was agreed through the Trust's Clinical Standards and Therapeutics Committee and has strict exclusion and inclusion criteria. In addition to the PGD, nurses must complete a 6 hour face to face simulation study day and 3 hours of e-learning. Please see attached the trial documents and PGD, however note that this is only permitted for use in the Emergency Department at Darlington Memorial Hospital and not approved for Trust wide use at present. Results of the pilot will be reported back through the Trust's Resuscitation & Deteriorating Patient Committee for further discussion about whether this could be implemented in other departments.

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