

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-122023-000532

Date: 02/08/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

We are writing to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the Trust's implementation of NHS England's "Getting it Right First Time" (GIRFT) pathway for suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome (CES).

We should be grateful for the following information:

1. Has your Trust implemented GIRFT pathway for suspected CES in all of its hospitals.

2. If the answer to Q1 is affirmative, please advise when it was implemented and advise on the following:

I. Number of CES related training to staff in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation.

II. Number of MRI scans undertaken for suspected CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation.

III. Average time between MRI referral and performance of the scan for suspected CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation.

IV. Number of patients who underwent surgery for CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation.

V. Breakdown of feedback raised by clinicians with your Trust regarding implementation of the pathway including total number of clinicians who provided feedback, whether positive or negative and its nature (for example resource issue /training/delays/patient safety).

3. If the answer to Q1 is negative, please state:

I. If only some hospitals within your Trust implemented the pathway, please state which ones did not and the reason why.

II. What other policy is followed with regards to the diagnosis and management of CES?

III. Are the plans for the pathway to be implemented in the future and if so when? If not, why not?

Response

1. Has your Trust implemented GIRFT pathway for suspected CES in all of its hospitals.

Yes, we use an online tool.

2. If the answer to Q1 is affirmative, please advise when it was implemented and advise on the Following:

Upon roll out spring / summer 2023.

I. Number of CES related training to staff in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation?

This is included on JNR DR induction.

II. Number of MRI scans undertaken for suspected CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation.

To provide the information you have requested, we would need to look at individual patient records, this is exempt under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, Personal Information.

III. Average time between MRI referral and performance of the scan for suspected CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation.

To provide the information you have requested, we would need to look at individual patient records, this is exempt under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, Personal Information.

IV. Number of patients who underwent surgery for CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation.

To provide the information you have requested, we would need to look at individual patient records, this is exempt under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, Personal Information.

V. Breakdown of feedback raised by clinicians with your Trust regarding implementation of the pathway including total number of clinicians who provided feedback, whether positive or negative and its nature (for example resource issue /training/delays/patient safety).

The Trust does not hold this information in a reportable format, when information is not in a reportable format the ICO guidance clearly states "FOIA only applies to information that a public authority already holds in recorded form at the time of a request. If you don't hold a particular piece of information that someone has asked for, you don't have to create it".

3. If the answer to Q1 is negative, please state:

N/A

I. If only some hospitals within your Trust implemented the pathway, please state which ones did not and the reason why.

N/A

II. What other policy is followed with regards to the diagnosis and management of CES?

Management of Suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome Standard Operating Procedure

III. Are the plans for the pathway to be implemented in the future and if so, when? If not, why not?

N/A

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**