

Date: 10/05/2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/012768 – Medication errors

I would be grateful if you could let me have the following information, for two separate years: 2014 and 2015.

1) The number of medication errors recorded by the Trust for each of these two years.

2014 – 5317

2015 - 2934

2) The number of these incidents for each of these two years that were recorded as causing:

– no harm	2014 – 464	2015 - 450
– low harm	2014 – 185	2015 - 222
– moderate harm	2014 – 26	2015 - 17
– severe harm	2014 – 1	2015 - 1
– death	2014 – 0	2015 – 0

****Although the request doesn't ask for this information, for the sake of clarity in 2014 there were 4641 near misses and for 2015, 2244 near misses**

3) The number of errors for each of these two years attributed to:

– prescribing error	2014 – 4493	2015 - 2266
– dispensing error or	2014 – 232	2015 - 167
– any other cause	2014 – 592	2015 - 501

4) The number of errors for each of these two years attributed to:

– the prescribing or dispensing of the wrong dose, or	2014 – 965	2015 - 589
– the prescribing or dispensing of the wrong medicine.	2014 – 235	2015 - 116

5) The number of incidents for each of these two years in which the Trust has paid financial compensation to patients or relatives of patients in respect of medication errors, and the total paid in compensation for each of these two years in respect of medication errors. - None

6) Finally, does the Trust have a named medication safety officer, and when was this post established and filled?

Yes. The MSO role was added to the role of the Deputy Chief Pharmacist in August 2014.

At the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, a medication error falls under the description of a medication incident and all incidents are reported on our DATIX database. A recent MHRA Patient Safety Alert (NHS/PSA/D/2014/005) defined Medication errors as any Patient Safety Incident where there has been an error in the process of prescribing, preparing, dispensing, administering, monitoring or providing advice on medicines.

The Dudley Group have worked hard over the last few years to encourage all our staff to report any incident whether it is a potential incident or a near miss and are pleased that we have a very good reporting culture. This helps us to learn from potential incidents before they have occurred and also any other incidents.