

Date: 17/02/2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/013236 – bowel dysfunction

1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination/check, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces (manual bowel evacuation) in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction ? - There is a formal written guideline produced in December 2014. It is titled; "Digital Rectal Examination and Digital Removal of Faeces (Adults Only) guideline"

2.If the Trust does, please supply a copy of this document - See attached

3.If the Trust does not, how is bowel care managed in the above patient groups who present with this care need? - see enclosed guideline for detail

4.Does the Trust employ a specialist continence nurse(s)? - The Community employs a Continence Nurse

5.If the Trust employs a specialist continence nurse(s) can they (a) undertake digital rectal checks, digital rectal stimulation and digital removal of faeces (manual bowel evacuation), otherwise known as 'intimate digital bowel care procedures' (b) provide instruction to other nurses to enable them to perform intimate digital bowel care procedures'? - See enclosed guideline for detail

6.If the Trust does not employ a specialist continence nurse, is there another health care professional who undertakes intimate digital bowel care procedures including manual bowel evacuation? If yes, who does this?

Yes the Trust employs a specialist continence nurse; see enclosed guideline for detail of other healthcare professionals

7.Does your Trust have a policy in place that will allow your staff to do trans-anal irrigation (TAI) of the bowel as a method of bowel care management for spinal cord injured patients? Do you train your staff to do TAI/ bowel irrigation - The stoma nurses perform irrigation of the distal loop of stomas

8.Do you run bowel care courses for your staff that allows them to deliver the full range of bowel care required by spinal cord injured patients or others with a neurogenic bowel?

See enclosed for detail

The learning and Development department through the clinical skills unit run training courses for nurses for digital rectal examination and manual evacuation.

9.If yes, please provide details. If no, does the Trust have a policy which allows for the personal care assistants (PAs) of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?

For a copy of the policy e-mail dgft.foi@nhs.net