

Freedom of Information request 014849  
28/6/19

**Questions for consideration**

In 2018 NHS Improvement issued a Patient Safety Alert (PSA), entitled *Resources to support safe and timely management of hyperkalaemia (high level of potassium in the blood)* which outlined specific actions for NHS trusts to implement in order to improve safety for patients at risk of hyperkalaemia. The deadline for completion was 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019. NHS Improvement’s recommendations were to:

1. Identify a senior clinician in the organisation to lead the response to the alert
2. Review or produce local guidance (including key steps or easy reference guides) for the management of hyperkalaemia that aligns with the evidence-based sources highlighted by NHS Improvement
3. Ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff including bank and agency staff
4. Ensure relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice by revising local training and audit
5. Use local communication strategies to make all staff aware that hyperkalaemia is a potentially life-threatening condition and that its timely identification, treatment and monitoring during and beyond initial treatment is essential

I would like to request information which sets out what steps the Trust has taken to implement each of the recommended actions (1 to 5) outlined in the *Management of Hyperkalaemia* PSA. Specifically, I request the following information relating to the PSA:

1. Has a senior clinician in the Trust been appointed to lead the response to this alert?

	<b>Your response</b>
If yes, please name the individual	Dr Raj Uppal – Consultant Anaesthetist
If no, please specify the reason for the lack of appointment and anticipated timelines for an appointment to be made	

2. Has the trust reviewed existing - or produced new - local guidance for the management of hyperkalaemia?

	<b>Your response</b>
If yes, please share the relevant guidance and provide details of any changes made during the review	The Trust reviewed the guideline on Emergency Management of Hyperkalaemia and minor alterations were made to ensure compliance.
If no, please specify why this has not taken place and any future plans to do so	

3. Has the trust taken steps to ensure that local guidance can be easily accessed by all staff?

	<b>Your response</b>
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken	All procedural documents are accessible to staff via the Trust Intranet site which all staff have access to.
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future plans to do so	

4. Has the trust revised local training and audit to ensure that relevant guidance and resources are embedded in clinical practice?

	<b>Your response</b>
If yes, please outline the specific measures taken and signpost to updated documents	The training was already compliant with the alert and is provided to all clinical staff as part of mandatory training.
If no, please specify the reasons why not and any future timelines in doing so	

5. Has the trust used local communication strategies to raise staff awareness of hyperkalaemia diagnosis and treatment?

	<b>Your response</b>
If yes, please specify the measures taken	The Trust shared the changes via a Patient Safety Bulletin
If no, please specify the reasons why and any future plans to do so	