

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

Ref: FOI-032024-000691

Date: 05/08/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

Request

This request will only be relevant if your trust hires/has hired physician associates (PAs).

1) In several physician associates (PAs) have erroneously prescribed medications to patients. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:

- a) The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate.
 - b) The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions.
 - c) The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e. patients given medication.
 - d) The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e. patients not given medications.
 - e) Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed?
 - f) Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions.
 - g) Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your trust (e.g. PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality)?
 - h) What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?
- 2) Several trusts have reported situations in which their physician associates (PAs) have erroneously ordered ionising radiation. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:
- a) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation?
 - b) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation, and these requests were acted on (i.e. the patient received the scan with ionising radiation as requested by the PA)?

Response

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Responses</u>
1) In several physician associates (PAs) have erroneously prescribed medications to patients. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:	0
a) The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate.	0
b) The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions.	0
c) The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e. patients given medication.	0
d) The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e. patients not given medications.	0
e) Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed?	0
f) Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions.	0
g) Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your trust (e.g. PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality)?	0
h) What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?	0
2) Several trusts have reported situations in which their physician associates (PAs) have erroneously ordered ionising radiation. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:	No
a) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation?	N/A
b) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation, and these requests were acted on (i.e. the patient received the scan with ionising radiation as requested by the PA)?	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

FOI-032024-000691

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