

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	PULSE online
Date of article	Friday 1 st June 2012
Reporter	Jaimie Kaffash
Headline	CCG to fine hospital over poor post-discharge communication
First paragraph/s of article	GP commissioners have fined their local foundation trust over its poor performance in sending out discharge letters. The fine, which is currently undergoing final negotiations, was levied because electronic discharge letters were arriving late, with incorrect or inadequate information, or never arriving, the CCG said in a letter to GPs.
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	The CCG used contractual levers to serve a performance notice on the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, following an audit of its performance by three GP practices in December 2011.
Press enquiry	Jaimie said that the Dudley LMC May 2012 meeting minutes stated that a financial penalty was imposed on the standard of electronic discharge letters. Questions: 1. What was wrong with the letters? 2. What was the fine?
Also issued to:	NA
Trust response	
<p>The Dudley Group is working closely with the PCT and GP practices to resolve problems with electronic discharge summaries and finding ways for Trust and GP electronic systems to work better together.</p> <p>Following a performance notice issued by the PCT, the Trust has drawn up an action plan to improve the timeliness and accuracy of discharge summaries.</p> <p>Three GP practices carried out their own audits in December 2011 and the outcome indicates that the Trust has failed the targets set out in the action plan, and this would be subject to a fine.</p>	

However, we are still in the process of validating the audit findings to review the mitigating circumstances that were agreed in the action plan. For example proof of dispatch: in some cases the electronic letter may have been sent but not received by the GP practice.

There is still a degree of negotiation and we cannot confirm the fine amount.