

Information Governance

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23 July 2024

Our reference: FOI D5505

I am responding to your request for information received 22 July 2024. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

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

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

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 21(1) of the FOI Act states:

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

The information requested is accessible here:

Question 6

https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-04/anon_response_-_foi_da5314.pdf

Question 1a: The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1b: The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1c: The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e. patients given medication?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1d: The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e. patients not given medications?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1e: Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1f: Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1g: Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your Trust (e.g. PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality)?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1h: What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?



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Answer: Not applicable.

Question 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:

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide acute services that require ionising radiation as described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2a: Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 2b: 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)?

Answer: Not applicable.



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