

03/07/2023

NN-ICB/23/324

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we partially hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

In the request you asked:

Is your Integrated Care Board aware of the recently published NHS England publication titled "Optimising personalised care for adults prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms: Framework for action for integrated care boards (ICBs) and primary care"?

Some individual staff members in the ICB are aware of this guidance.

If so, what action will your Board take to:

- a) Provide appropriate withdrawal services (not inappropriate substance misuse services) for patients who have become dependent, through no fault of their own, to prescribed drugs identified in the recent PHE review, such as benzodiazepines, z drugs, opioid containing drugs, antidepressants and pregabalin and gabapentin?

Currently the ICB commissions services to help patients with pain management, however these are not specific services for helping patients who have become dependent, through no fault of their own, to prescribed medicines identified in the PHE review. At present, the ICB does not have a commissioned service for this.

The Medicines Optimisation team intend to formally discuss the report at a future meeting of the ICB Clinical and Care Professionals Leadership Group (CCPL). The group provides clinical healthcare professional leadership and advice to the ICB Board. The report has been shared with members of the Medicines Optimisation team and discussed with a selected number of frontline clinicians at locality level to raise awareness and obtain feedback to help inform the discussion at the CCPL.

- b) Develop local policies for the above?

The ICB does not hold this information, it is dependent on the outcome of the CCPL discussion.

- c) Implement in prescribing practice when prescribing the drugs mentioned above?

The ICB has a range of resources to support prescribers to implement in prescribing practice when prescribing medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms. Further work on this will depend on the outcome of the CCPL discussion and subsequent actions from their recommendations.

The report focuses on personalised care / shared decision making and using structured medication reviews (SMRs) as part of the review process. The ICB Medicines Optimisation team have been working for some time with GPs / PCNs to influence prescribing practice and support clinicians to adopt new prescribing practices. Examples of these activities include:

- Opioids and gabapentinoid medicines were part of the prescribing visit report for each GP practice last year and information about prescribing of gabapentinoid medicines features in the report this year. This includes prescribing data to help the practice reflect on their prescribing and reference to local / national guidance to influence prescribing practice.
- Our medicines safety work programme for this year includes work focussing on shared decision making when prescribing gabapentinoid medicines. It involves informing GP practices of the MHRA drug safety alerts in relation to respiratory risk when prescribing gabapentin / pregabalin and then supporting practices to identify / prioritise patients for SMR using the personalised care approach. Dependence forming medicines will continue to be a focus with the medicines safety programme in the future, with potential work areas to include antidepressant prescribing. We have also undertaken work with prescribers to review prescribing of high dose opioid medicines in the last couple of years.
- Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee publications include guidance that is relevant to this area of prescribing and emphasises personalised care. Examples are given below; this guidance / information sources are shared with GPs / PCNs to support the work we are doing with prescribers in GP practices:
 - Management of Chronic Pain in Patients above 16 years of age - The Overarching Guide for Primary Care Clinicians
 - Management of Neuropathic Pain for Adults in Primary Care
 - Opioids for Non-cancer Pain in Adults
 - Opioid Deprescribing for Persistent Non-Cancer Pain
 - Primary Care Guide to Antidepressants Prescribing, Stopping & Swapping
 - Benzodiazepines and Z-Hypnotics Guidance on Prescribing and Deprescribing
 - We also have a range of de-prescribing resources which includes information for patients and carers - <https://www.nottsapc.nhs.uk/de-prescribingstomp/>
 - We have also produced podcasts that consider prescribing / deprescribing in pain management - <https://www.nottsapc.nhs.uk/publications/podcasts/>

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to FOI Team at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to:

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern via <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board*

notts.foi@nhs.net

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