

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 17-036

Date 27 April 2017

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Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

1. **Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination/check, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces (manual bowel evacuation) in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?**
Yes, however please note we do not do digital removal of faeces.
2. **If the Trust does, please supply a copy of this document.**
Please find Transanal Irrigation Protocol attached.
3. **If the Trust does not, how is bowel care managed in the above patient groups who present with this care need?**
Not applicable – see response to question one.
4. **Does the Trust employ a specialist continence nurse(s)?**
No, the Trust does not employ them. However Coloplast provide complementary specialist continence nurse input to our patients around trans-anal irrigation. The lead GI physiology team are also trained and certified to do the rectal irrigation education and will do so if the irrigation is needed more urgently than the once a month clinic that the Peristeen nurses attend.
5. **If the Trust employs a specialist continence nurse(s) can they (a) undertake digital rectal checks, digital rectal stimulation and digital removal of faeces (manual bowel evacuation), otherwise known as 'intimate digital bowel care procedures' (b) provide instruction to other nurses to enable them to perform intimate digital bowel care procedures'?**
Not applicable - see above response.
6. **If the Trust does not employ a specialist continence nurse, is there another health care professional who undertakes intimate digital bowel care procedures including manual bowel evacuation? If yes, who does this?**
If manual evacuation is required this is usually done under anaesthetic by the consultant surgeons

7. **Does your Trust have a policy in place that will allow your staff to do trans-anal irrigation (TAI) of the bowel as a method of bowel care management for spinal cord injured patients? Do you train your staff to do TAI/ bowel irrigation?**

No however, Coloplast provide a complementary specialist continence nurse service to our patients to train them on how to manage irrigation themselves.

8. **Do you run bowel care courses for your staff that allows them to deliver the full range of bowel care required by spinal cord injured patients or others with a neurogenic bowel?**

No however, the GI physiology team have had training in education of use in the irrigation systems but would not do manual removal of faeces, this is carried out by consultants.

9. **If yes, please provide details. If no, does the Trust have a policy which allows for the personal care assistants (PAs) of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?**

Not applicable

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]