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Velindre University NHS Trust

Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru
Welsh Blood Service

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Canolfan Ganser Felindre
Velindre Cancer Centre

Ffôn/Phone : (029) 20196161
https://velindre.nhs.wales

Date: 10th July 2023
Ref: CORP 2023-092

Dear **********,

Freedom of Information request : Request-Antibiotic Administration Set Line Flushing (CORP 2023 – 092)

Thank you for your request for the following information which the Trust received on 1st June 2023.

Your Request:

> *Dear Freedom of Information Request Team,*
>
> *In my role as a Member of the House of Lords, I am helping to shape the United Kingdom's response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). An important part of this is to understand the correct usage and disposal of antimicrobials in UK hospitals.*
>
> *I am therefore submitting this Freedom of Information Request (FoIR), aiming to understand how each NHS organisation uses and disposes of antimicrobials when given as an intravenous (IV) intermittent infusion. Your responses may be integrated into a working paper on antibiotic residues and pharmapollution. They may also be used to ask questions to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Care Quality Commission (CQC) regarding ongoing inspections of hospital practices and policies in relation to the threat posed by AMR.*

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Please provide an overall answer to the questions below factoring in practice in the following clinical areas of the hospital: Critical Care, Emergency Department/Wards, Medical Wards, Surgical Wards, Outpatients, etc. Please exclude the following areas—where evidence shows that correct practice already takes place—from your response: Oncology, Haematology, Paediatrics, Neonatal Units. Please also exclude responses related to flushing of the needlefree extension or vascular access device as these questions specifically relate to the residual volume of antibiotic in the administration set line (infusion pump set and/or gravity set).

A template spreadsheet (in.xlsx format) is provided for you to fill out as a further attachment to the email containing this letter. Please use this template for ease of data processing.

Q1a. With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, does your institution have a policy to flush the administration set to give the full dose of antibiotics in accordance with the following guidelines:

- *The Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures, Tenth Edition, Chapter 15, which states: "After completion of an intermittent infusion, an appropriate diluent solution should be administered via the administration set. This is to ensure the full dose of medication has been administered to the patient."*

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- *The "MEDUSA" injectable medicines guide instructions on how to administer intermittent infusions, which states: "Flush the administration set before it is disconnected with sufficient volume of sodium chloride (or compatible diluent) to ensure the total dose is given. Flush at the same rate the medicine was administered."*

- *The National Infusion and Vascular Access Society (NIVAS) "Intravenous Administration of Medicines to adults: Guidance on 'line flushing' Version 3 2021", which states: "'At the end of the infusion, the medicine remaining in the infusion set should be flushed with sodium chloride 0.9% or other compatible diluent, using one of the methods described below."*

Q1b. If the answer to Q1a is "yes", is your organisation fully compliant with your policy to flush the administration set to give the full dose of antibiotics in accordance with guidelines?

Q1c. If the answer to Q1a is "yes", do you follow method 1 or 2 as outlined by the NIVAS guidelines linked above?
Q2a. With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, if you do have a policy in place to flush the administration set, have you audited compliance with this policy?

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Q2b. If the answer to Q2a is "yes", can you share the audit results? If so, please provide a copy as an attachment to your response to this FoIR.

Q3. What education measures have you put in place to ensure healthcare professionals in your organisation understand:

a. The existing guidance on flushing administration sets that are used for IV antibiotic infusions (as laid out in the sources above)?

b. The patient risks involved with failing to flush the residual volume of IV antibiotics in the administration sets?

c. The possible effects of not flushing the IV administration set containing IV antibiotics on antimicrobial resistance?

Q4. With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, which of the following (if any) are included in your policy with regards to disposing of the administration set and residual volume of either the prescribed antibiotic or flushing solution?

a. Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the yellow bag.

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b. Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the orange bag.

c. Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the sharps bin.

d. Drip chamber/sharp are detached from the administration set line and the drip chamber/sharp disposed of in the sharps bin and the rest of the administration set line disposed of in the yellow bag.

e. Drip chamber/sharp is detached from the administration set line and the drip chamber/sharp disposed of in the sharps bin and the rest of the administration set line disposed of in the orange bag.

f. Other (please state)

I look forward to your response and would be grateful if you could send it directly to the Senior Parliamentary Researcher in my office Dr Paul-Enguerrand Fady (fadyp@parliament.uk).

The Trust has reviewed your request which is correctly formatted and complies with Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act.

You requested that the Trust provide a response to your questions which are numbered 1 – 4. Please note the Trust does not hold the information you requested,

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this is because your letter states *"Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology"*

Velindre University NHS Trust is a nationally recognised specialist centre of excellence for the provision of non-surgical oncology including radiotherapy and chemotherapy; specialist palliative care; blood transfusion; specialist immunohaematology; antenatal blood testing reference work; and transplant immunology.

The Trust provides a range of specialist non-surgical oncology services to approximately 1.5 million people of south east Wales, and to the whole of Wales for some services, working in partnership with the hospitals managed by the Local Health Boards. The Welsh Blood Service collects processes and delivers blood and blood products to hospitals across Wales.

Please follow the link below to the Trusts internet site should you wish to find out more information about our services.

https://velindre.nhs.wales/

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review. Please note that you must submit a request for a review within 40 days of the date of this letter.

You should forward your complaint to:-

Mr Ian Bevan via FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk
Head of Information Governance
Velindre University NHS Trust
2, Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
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Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:-

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff,
CF10 2HH
Telephone: 0330 414 6421
email: wales@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Fear
Director of Corporate Governance and Chief of Staff
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