

Ref FOI17 018  
Date 17 January 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

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Please find below/attached the Isle of Wight NHS Trust's response to your request.

Please provide the following information on bowel management for spinal cord injured people and others with neurogenic bowel dysfunction.

Response: The Isle of Wight NHS Trust does not hold information of the nature requested. The Trust does not have a spinal injuries unit and has minimal contact with patients with spinal cord injuries. The Trust does not manage patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction.

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 ?

Response: No

2.If the Trust does, please supply a copy of this document.

Response: This is not applicable

3.If the Trust does not, how is bowel care managed in the above patient groups who present with this care need?

Response: Each patient is assessed on an individual basis on the rare occasion they may present.

4.Does the Trust employ a specialist continence nurse(s)?

Response: The Isle of Wight NHS Trust does not employ a specialist continence nurse.

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'?

Response: This is not applicable

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?

Response: This is not applicable

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?

Response: This is not applicable

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?

Response: No

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?

Response: This is not applicable

Please note that this response does not constitute consent for direct marketing.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust serves a resident population of 140,000 with a substantial influx of tourists during the summer months. The Trust provides acute, ambulance, community, maternity, mental health services on the Isle of Wight. As the only fully integrated service provider in England with this unique range of services comparisons with other service providers are not always straightforward.

A log of this request will be held on a database by the Trust. All hard copy correspondence relating to this request will be held for one year from the date of this letter, before being confidentially destroyed. A copy of this response will be published on the Trust website.

If you are unhappy about the response you have received, you should write and request the Trust to undertake an internal review of your application. A senior member of staff, not previously involved with your request for information, will undertake this review. If you remain

dissatisfied with the response received you may complain to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully

**Freedom of Information Team**