Our Ref: FOI.13.DGS0067

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your 2 September 2013 by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group. The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information on services for Atrial Fibrillation patients. I would like to request that the Head of Cardiology (or equivalent) completes this Freedom of Information request.

1. Please provide me with all of the CCG’s guidelines relating to the treatment and management of Atrial Fibrillation.
2. Please provide me with the CCG’s written anticoagulation policy.

Pulse Checks

3. The QOF rewards GP practices who maintain a register of Atrial Fibrillation patients. How many patients are currently on GP practices register across the CCG?
4. What are you doing to encourage primary care practitioners to carry out opportunistic pulse checks?
5. Does the CCG provide pulse checks within NHS Health checks?
6. If yes, how do you ensure that these checks are routinely carried out? If no, please indicate why not?
7. Does your CCG provide any financial incentives to carry out opportunistic health checks?

Access to Arrhythmia Nurses

8. How many specialist Arrhythmia nurses operate within the CCG on either: a) a part time basis b) a full time basis?
9. How many patients with Atrial Fibrillation have regular contact with an arrhythmia nurse and, on average, how many times a year do they have contact with these nurses?
10. Do you operate rapid access arrhythmia clinics? If so, how many?

Access to NOACs

11. Does your medicine prescribing policy enable clinicians to prescribe the following new oral anticoagulants for the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation: a) Dabigatran (Pradaxa) b) Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) c) Apixaban (Eliquis)
12. If not, please provide details of your current policy and how this differs from existing NICE guidance.
13. Within your CCG, how many Atrial Fibrillation patients in each of the last five years have: a) been diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation
b) been treated for Atrial Fibrillation

14. Within your CCG, how many Atrial Fibrillation patients have been prescribed one of the new oral anticoagulants for the treatment of their Atrial Fibrillation:
   · Dabigatran (Pradaxa)
   · Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)
   · Apixaban (Eliquis)

1. Please see attached the Atrial Fibrillation

2. Please see attached Treatment Pathway

3. I can confirm NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley CCG does not hold this information; therefore, you may wish to direct this query onto NHS England who should be able to answer your request. Their contact details are as follows: england.contactus@nhs.net - please write “Freedom of Information” in the subject line.

4. Please see response to question 3

5. NHS Health Checks are a Local Authority responsibility not an NHS one. The GP practices are contracted with to provide NHS Health Check to their patients via Kent Community Health Trust (KCHT). Kent County Council commissioned KCHT to provide this service for 2013/14. Pulse checks are not a mandated requirement for the NHS Health Check but many providers do complete a pulse check as part of the NHS Health Check.

6. Pulse checks are not mandated, therefore not currently monitored

7. No but all completed NHS Health Checks can be claimed for, even if the patient was not part of the regulated invitation process.

Access to Arrhythmia Nurses

8. NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley do not hold this information – you may wish to direct this section onto Kent Community Health NHS Trust who should be able to answer your request. Their contact details are as follows: kcht.foi@nhs.net

9. As above

10. NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley CCG does not hold this information; therefore, you may wish to direct this section onto Kent Community Health NHS Trust who should be able to answer your request. Their contact details are as follows: kcht.foi@nhs.net

Access to NOACs

11. 
   a) Dabigatran (Pradaxa) Yes
   b) Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) Yes
   c) Apixaban (Eliquis) Yes
NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG does not hold the information in a way that we can give patient numbers. However under Section 16 of the FOI Act 2000, we believe the information may be held by Derent Valley NHS Trust. The link to their website is below.


Attachments are available on request