25 February 2019

Dear

Freedom of Information Request – DGS 200

Thank you for your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) 13 February 2019. The information you have requested is below.

**Do you have an IFR process and how easy is it to navigate?**
I can confirm that IFRs are managed on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Group by NEL-CSU. Referrers are required to complete an online application form which is considered by the next available Triage Group. Details of the process are available at:
https://www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk/about-dgs/how-we-work/how-we-make-decisions/individual-funding-requests/

**How many IFR's have you submitted in the past financial year for Rheumatology?**
I can confirm that no IFRs have been submitted in the past financial year for Rheumatology for patients aligned to this CCG.

**How many IFR's have you had approved this financial year?**
I can confirm that 3 IFRs have been approved during this financial year for this CCG (none related to Rheumatology).

**How many patients do you have on biologic/high cost drugs?**
I can confirm that there are 1069 patients on biologic/high cost drugs.

**Do you have a prescribing pathway that you follow for Rheumatoid arthritis with methotrexate?**
I can confirm that DGS CCG does not have a prescribing pathway that is followed for Rheumatoid arthritis with methotrexate, however, we are currently beginning the process of developing a pathway. This will begin in the new financial year 19/20.

**Do you have a prescribing pathway that you follow for Rheumatoid arthritis monotherapy?**
I can confirm that DGS CCG does not have a prescribing pathway that is followed for Rheumatoid arthritis monotherapy, however, we are currently beginning the process of developing a pathway. This will begin in the new financial year 19/20.

**Do you have a prescribing pathway that you follow for PSA/AS?**
I can confirm that DGS CCG does not have a prescribing pathway that is followed for PSA/AS, however, we are currently beginning the process of developing a pathway. This will begin in the new financial year 19/20.

**Can you share copies of your prescribing pathways if you have them?**
I can confirm that we do not currently have prescribing pathways for the above indications.

**What are your options for treating patients that have had multiple treatment failures for each indication?**
I can confirm that we currently follow NICE guidance which is supported by clinical evidence, cost effectiveness and best practice, but the development of the pathways as above will better inform the robust management of patients who have had multiple treatment failures.

**How do you treat patients when they reach the end of their treatment choices?**
I can confirm that currently, the options for patients that reach the end of their treatment choices are clinical trials or unlicensed medications applied for via the IFR route by the clinician based on their specialised clinical judgement. In the future, the development of the prescribing pathways as detailed above will better inform the robust management of these patients.

We hope that this has dealt with your request for information however, should you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to request that we conduct an internal review of your request. If you would like us to conduct such a review please contact us within two months of this letter using the contact details below:

E-mail: swccg.northkent.foi@nhs.net
Post: FOI, NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group, 2nd Floor, Gravesham Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Your request for an internal review will then be processed in accordance with our Freedom of Information Policy, a copy of which can be found on our website: www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following the internal review, you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act, and on when and how to complain.
Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.
https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/
Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

In line with the Information Commissioner’s directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. An anonymised version of our response will therefore be posted on our website.

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