Freedom of Information Request – DGS 212

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) on 4 March 2019. The information requested is below:

1. Any care pathways for the investigation and management of patients with symptomatic palpitations and/or syncope referred to cardiac services in your trust by GPs. Of particular interest is the role and positioning of diagnostic investigations such as cardiac rhythm monitoring, cardiac imaging and cardiovascular performance assessment.

   GP practices within NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley area are provided with the relevant care pathways and tests are carried out at secondary care. The CCG does not hold this information and may be held by the acute trust, Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

   FOI Act Lead
   Jade Hub – Upper Level
   Darent Valley Hospital
   Darenth Wood Road
   Dartford
   Kent DA2 8DA

   Or by using their online form: https://www.dgt.nhs.uk/about-us/foi/form/

2. Details of both national and locally negotiated tariff arrangements applied to this service

   This information can be found at
   (https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/national-tariff-1719/#h2-tariff-documents)

3. Does the GP have direct access to the cardiac monitoring service?

   The GP surgeries within NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group’s area have urgent access to a rapid access chest pain clinic
which could provide cardiac monitoring, if required. GPs can directly refer patients to
the ambulatory care unit at Darent Valley Hospital where relevant access can be
accessed.

4. **Is the patient seen by a cardiologist before having the monitor attached?**

Patients are referred directly to secondary care setting where it will determine who
the appropriate clinician is to manage the patient and managed according to clinical
presentation including whether to order a diagnostic test prior to outpatient’s
appointment.

5. **If not, who undertakes the process (e.g. technician, nurse etc.)**

Patients are referred directly to secondary care setting where it will determine who
the appropriate clinician is to manage the patient and managed according to clinical
presentation including whether to order a diagnostic test prior to outpatients
appointment.

6. **What is the first pass monitoring technology (e.g. 24hr, 48hr, 7-day event
triggered etc.)**

The CCG does not hold this level of information. The acute trust may hold the
requested information. Please refer to question 1 above.

7. **What happens after the first pass monitoring – are all seen by a cardiologist or
is there a pre-appointment triage process?**

This would entail a clinical decision dependent on clinical presentation, history and
test results. For further information, please refer to the acute Trust referred to in
question 1 above.

8. **What other tests are ordered (e.g. 12-lead ECG, Echo etc.), at which stage in
the pathway and for which patients?**

This would be dependent on symptom presentation and clinical decision making. For
further information, please refer to the acute Trust referred to in question 1 above.

9. **What determines who is selected for 2nd pass monitoring and what technology
is used for this?**

The CCG does not hold this level of information. For further information, please refer
to the acute Trust referred to in question 1 above.

10. **What determines who is discharged back to the GP?**

Secondary care cardiologist will make the decision if patient is fit to be discharged
back to the care of the GP.

11. **What is the current tariff for 24 hr, 48 hr, 7-day Holter Monitoring**

Please refer to the website below – the national tariff applies

[https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/national-tariff-1719/#h2-tariff-documents](https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/national-tariff-1719/#h2-tariff-documents)
12. **What is the tariff for referral to community cardiology investigation clinics**

The CCG does not currently have a community service.

13. **What is the tariff for direct referrals for GPs for 24hr, 48 hr and 7-day Holter Monitoring**

Please refer to the website below – the national tariff applies

(https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/national-tariff-1719/#h2-tariff-documents)

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 Swale Clinical Commissioning Group, Bramblefield Clinic, Grovehurst Road, Kemsley Sittingbourne Kent ME10 2ST

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.