Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email, dated 3 April 2019, making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for access to information which may be held by NHS Greater Preston Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Please find detailed below NHS Greater Preston CCG’s response to your request, which is formatted as follows:-

1. Details of NHS Greater Preston CCG’s decision in regard to the information requested.
2. A schedule of all the records covered by your request.
3. A statement concerning copyright and re-use of public sector information.
4. Details of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these parts in turn:-

1. Decision
   I can confirm that NHS Greater Preston CCG holds part the information requested.

2. Schedule of records/FOI response
   
   Request: Please state the unlicensed cannabis based medical products you have approved for prescription by consultants (on the General Medical Council’s specialist register), in your Care Commissioning Group’s area on an NHS prescription to their patients. ('Unlicensed' refers to the medicine not having received Market Approval in the UK by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and it not being listed in Schedule 4 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001).
   
   Response: The CCG has not approved any unlicensed cannabis based products for prescription.

   Request: Please state the number of prescriptions that have been issued for the following cannabis based medical products since 01/11/2018: 
   Cannabidiol (Epidiolex). Product code: N/A.
Response: These products are not prescribable in primary care and therefore we do not have access to this information. We would suggest that you contact the providers for this information.

Our main acute provider is Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which can be contacted via email at: freedomofinformation@lthtr.nhs.uk.

Our main community provider is Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, which can be contacted via email at: Freedom.OfInformationRequests@lancashirecare.nhs.uk.

3. Copy and reuse of public sector information provided in FOI response

Most of the information provided by NHS Greater Preston CCG in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In the majority of cases the information will be owned by NHS Greater Preston CCG. The copyright for other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated in the information itself: in this case you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. It may also be used for the purposes of news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example, by publishing the information or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright owner.

4. Right of appeal to FOI response

If you are dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you are entitled to complain in the following way:

Initially you should complain in writing to the freedom of information officer, either by email on gpccg.foi@nhs.net or post to Chorley House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TT, specifying why you feel you have been wrongly denied access to the information requested. The freedom of information officer will ensure your complaint is investigated under NHS Greater Preston CCG’s internal processes and provide you with a written response within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Greater Preston CCG.

Yours sincerely
Helen Curtis
FOI Lead
Head of Quality and Performance