31 May 2019

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

Thank you for your email, dated 26 May 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 the information requested.

2. Schedule of records/FOI response

   Request: Do you have a formulary used by primary care prescribers? If so, what is the status of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs with respect to minor conditions associated with pain, discomfort and fever?


Please also see the CCG website for our prescribing policy: [*https://www.greaterprestonccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-policies and http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/download/guidelines/Primary-Care-Good-Prescribing-Guide-v2.2-FINAL-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf](http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/download/guidelines/Primary-Care-Good-Prescribing-Guide-v2.2-FINAL-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf)*, for prescribing guidance.
Request: Is there a current policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide documents and start date.

Response: Yes, *see above.

Request: Is there a policy currently being developed regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide any documents and predicted start date.

Response: No.

Request: Has there previously been a policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs that has been discarded? If so, please provide documents and start and end date.

Response: Yes, a previous self-care policy was introduced in 2016 and replaced with the policy as above*.

Request: Regarding prescribing policy has the CCG given consideration to the recent NHS England guidance “Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs” published in March 2018? If so, has this guidance been implemented, or is it planned to be implemented?

Response: Yes, this guidance has been implemented, see above.

Request: Have you provided any education for prescribers regarding prescriptions for over-the-counter medication, in particular paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, when and how were these education sessions delivered (for example, meeting, didactic lecture or leaflet)?

Response: The medicines co-ordinators within the practice received training but not the GPs, who were only provided with a copy of the policy documents.

Request: Is there any financial incentive for GPs regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide documents.

Response: No.

Request: Is there any planned action to enforce any policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs should it not be upheld by prescribers? If so, please provide documents.

Response: No.
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