

Information Governance Department
East Wing
St. Pancras Hospital
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12 December 2014

Reference: 2014-142

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act 2000

Following your request for information we received on the 17 November 2014, we are providing you with access to the recorded information held by Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust in answer to your enquiry.

You requested the following information:

- 1) I would like to know whether your trust publishes guidance or support for staff relating to the calculation of body mass index. Recent research suggests that factors such as ethnicity and age should be taken into account when making this calculation and the results adjusted accordingly. I have included a link for guidance document from the Royal College of Nursing which illustrates the type of adjustments that have been advised.**
http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/519627/DIY_Information_Sheet_Body_Mass_Index.pdf If the trust has published any guidance on this matter please could I have a copy.

I can confirm that the Trust does not publish any guidance relating to BMI calculation, other than that used in the Modified Early Warning System, (MEWS) which records BMI for patients.

- 2) Does the trust have a standard method for measuring height when a patient is unable to stand? For instance by measuring the ulna, knee height or demi span.**
- 2) If so which measurement does the trust advice clinicians to use? Is this information being recorded electronically or do you use a paper based system for recording this information?**

The Trust does not use automatic electronic calculation.

Chair: Leisha Fullick
Chief Executive: Wendy Wallace

Your partner in
care & improvement 

3) If you have switched to an electronic system, is BMI calculated automatically? For example, in some Trusts when clinicians enter a patients weight and height the body mass index is automatically calculated. If this is the case does it make recommendations of adjustments for ethnicity or age? If it does please could you provide me with further details.

I can confirm that the Trust does not make adjustments relating to age or ethnicity at present. The Trust would however be interested receiving the outcome to your research findings.

I do hope you are satisfied with the way in which your response was handled, if not you may request an internal review at the above email address within 28 days of this letter. When contacting the Trust please use the above reference that is unique to your request.

If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner' Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF and on the Information Centre's website. www.ico.gov.uk/

Yours sincerely


Interim Information Governance Officer