

09 September 2020

Our Ref: RFI 34952

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 or
Information in Relation to the Prescribing of Apomorphine**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 29 June 2020. You will be aware from my previous email that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Information Governance Service was suspended as staff were redeployed. Thank you for your patience and forbearance during the ensuing delay.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Joyce Batch
Information Governance Assistant

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with the following information.

I note that virtually no apomorphine is prescribed in your Trust, yet I am aware that there is a normal distribution of Parkinson's patients.

Q1 Does your Trust not permit the prescribing of apomorphine? If not, can you explain the rationale behind this.

A1. The Trust permits the prescribing of apomorphine.

Q2 I note that hospitals do prescribe Apomorphine. Could you confirm if whether there is a pass through or another method for hospitals to pass the costs back to the Trust? If not, since it is a tariff drug and the hospitals have no other funding method, are you in fact driving inequity or postcode prescribing by preventing the use of apomorphine?

A2. In terms of the prescribing of apomorphine, the patient numbers across the Trust are small. In relation to costs, the Trust has a shared care agreement that the patient's GP will take over the prescribing of apomorphine within the primary care setting. To the knowledge of the Trust there haven't been any issues with primary care continuing treatment.