

Information Governance

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Thank you for your request for information received 5th August 2019. I am sorry for the delay in responding to you. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Ayomide Adediran
Information Governance Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision. If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

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Request:

This request is regarding the Columbia Ward, please outline:

Question 1. What is the ward's policy for deciding when to do a Deprivation of Liberty Assessment?

Answer: The Columbia ward follows the Trust policy on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards; if it seems a person meets the statutory definition of being deprived of their liberty (i.e. they are not free to leave the ward, they are under continuous supervision and control and they lack the capacity to agree to these arrangements) and they are not detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 nor objecting to all or part of their treatment for mental disorder, then ward staff formally apply to the relevant local authority to request an authorisation of the deprivation of liberty. Please see attached Deprivation of Liberty Policy.

Question 2. What's the ward's policy for making decisions about a patient moving from treatment under section 2 of the Mental Health Act to section 3?

Answer: The decision to refer a patient for a mental health act assessment is clinical and is made by the patient's consultant psychiatrist in conjunction with the multi-disciplinary team. All consultant psychiatrists are section 12 approved in relation to the Mental Health Act 1983 to make these assessments and decisions. Ultimately the patient's consultant psychiatrist is the decision maker with regard to whether a patient requires a referral to change from section 2 to 3 under the Mental Health Act 1983 or requires a referral for a Mental Capacity Act 2005 assessment. Information about this has been attached.

Question 3. What is the ward's policy for involving the families of patients in these decisions?

Answer: Families are an important part of every patient's assessment and treatment in relation to the information they provide and discussions around care and treatment. Once a referral is made for a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard assessment, it is the best interest assessor appointed by the local authority who makes a decision about whether the patient meets the criteria for a deprivation of liberty safeguard authorisation.

Question 4. What the ward's policy is for discussing the payment of treatment with the families of patients?

Answer: The NHS care is free (unless the individual is an overseas visitor) and the ward does not discuss treatment costs with families. If a patient requires a residential or nursing home placement social services will carry out a financial assessment to identify if the individual is entitled to financial support for some or all of the cost. Social services would need to be contacted to provide details regarding this.