

**Information Governance**

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1 November 2023

**Our reference: FOI DA5032**

I am responding to your request for information received 26 October 2023. 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,

Information Rights 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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**Interim Chief Executive Officer:** Lorraine Sunduza  
**Chair:** Eileen Taylor

**Request:** This is a request for information being made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It relates to a National Patient Safety Alert ('NatPSA') issued by the Department of Health & Social Care on 27/09/2023: 'Shortage of methylphenidate prolonged-release capsules and tablets, lisdexamfetamine capsules, and guanfacine prolonged-release tablets.' (reference no: NatPSA/2023/011/DHSC). According to the Central Alerting System website, this alert was issued to Mental Health Trusts (see: <https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103238>). The alert states that required actions should be completed by 11/10/2023.

The alert states that 'prescribers should: not initiate new patients on products affected by this shortage until the supply issues resolve'.

The alert states that 'healthcare professionals in primary care (and secondary care if appropriate) should: identify all patients currently prescribed these products; and make early contact with patients to establish how much supply they have remaining.'

The alert states that 'where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, contact: patient's specialist team for advice on management options if the product cannot be sourced.'

The alert states that 'specialist teams should: support primary care teams seeking advice for patients currently prescribed the affected products; provide individualised management plans, where required; and recommend alternatives in line with NICE guidance, where appropriate.'

**Question 1:** Did your Trust receive the above NatPSA? If so, on what date was it received?

**Answer:** Yes. 28 September 2023.

**Question 2:** Assuming that the answer to the first part of question 1 is yes, was the NatPSA forwarded to relevant specialist teams within your Trust? Which specialist teams was the NatPSA forwarded to?

**Answer:** Yes. The NatPSA was forwarded to the Medical Director, Chief Nurse, Chief Pharmacist, Trust Medication Safety Officer, and Director of Primary Care, who then cascaded down to relevant teams Trust wide.

**Question 3:** The NatPSA states that 'prescribers should not initiate new patients on products affected by this shortage until the supply issues resolve.' Have any new patients under your care who would ordinarily have been prescribed the affected products not been given prescriptions because of this required action? If so, how many?

**Answer:** No new patients have been initiated. It is not possible to state how many new patients under our care who would ordinarily have been prescribed the affected products have not been given prescriptions as this figure is not recorded.

**Question 4:** Where appropriate did specialist teams within your Trust 'identify all patients currently prescribed these products', as required by the NatPSA? If so, how many patients were identified and by what date was this action carried out?



Answer: Yes. Specialist clinical teams were asked to review their respective caseloads. The Trust has no central record of the number of patients reviewed. All reviews were concluded by 11 October 2023.

**Question 5: Where appropriate did specialist teams within your Trust ‘make early contact with patients to establish how much supply they have remaining’, as required by the NatPSA? If so, how many patients did you attempt to contact? How many patients were successfully contacted?**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—  
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and  
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested given the number of individual teams affected by the alert and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 6: Assuming that the answer to the first part of question 5 is ‘yes’, and that some patients were successfully contacted, how many patients were identified as having insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date?**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—  
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and  
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 7: The NatPSA states that healthcare professionals should ‘contact patient’s specialist team[s] for advice on management options’. Have any specialist teams within your Trust been contacted by other healthcare professionals seeking such advice? If so, what advice were specialist teams able to provide?**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 7 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—  
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and  
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the requested information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.



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**Question 8: Have specialist teams within your Trust '[supported] primary care teams seeking advice for patients currently prescribed the affected products', as required by the NatPSA? If so, how?**

Answer: Yes. The Trust has engaged in collaborative work with North East London (NEL) and Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) ICBs.

**Question 9: Have specialist teams within your Trust provided individualised management plans, either to primary care teams or directly to patients? If so, how many?**

Answer: No.

**Question 10: Have specialist teams within your Trust recommended alternative products in line with NICE guidance, where appropriate? If so, how many such recommendations have been made?**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 10 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—  
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and  
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested given the number of individual teams affected by the alert and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 11: What policy, if any, exists within your Trust for ensuring compliance with National Patient Safety Alerts? If such a policy exists, please provide a copy of it.**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 11 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 21(1) of the FOI Act states:

*(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.*

The information requested is accessible here:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Managing%20Safety%20Alerts%20Procedure%20%28CAS%29%202.0.docx>



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