

Freedom of Information Request on Allergy Recording in Electronic Patient Records

Survey Flow

Block: Section 1: General Information (7 Questions)
Standard: Section 2: Allergy Recording System (10 Questions)
Standard: Section 3: Allergy incidents (11 Questions)
Standard: Section 4: Feedback and Improvements (2 Questions)

Start of Block: Section 1: General Information

Q1 Trust Name:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

Q2 Type of Healthcare Facilities

- ☐ District General Hospital (DGH) (1)
- ☐ Specialty Hospital (2)
- ☐ Private Hospital (3)
- ☐ Community Hospital (4)
- ☐ Other (Please Specify) (5) Mental Health and Community Trust
- ☐

Q3 Demographic of Hospital Care

- ☐ Adult Hospital (1)
- ☐ Paediatric Hospital (2)
- ☐ General Hospital (Both paediatric and adult) (3)
- ☐ GP surgery (4)
- ☐ Other (Please Specify) (5) CAMHS mental health services

Q4 Respondent's Role in the Trust:

☐ Medical Records Manager (1)

☐ IT Specialist (2)

☐ Clinician (3)

☒ Administrator (4)

☐ Other (Please Specify) (5)

Q5 Does your Trust use electronic patient records (EPR)?

☒ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Q6

Which EPR system does your Trust use?

☐ Cerner (1)

☐ Epic (2)

☐ System C (3)

☐ Dedalus (4)

☐ Altera (5)

☐ Other (Please Specify) (6) **RiO, System One, EMIS, IAPTUS**

End of Block: Section 1: General Information

Start of Block: Section 2: Allergy Recording System

Q7 Does the EPR system used by your Trust include a specific section for recording food, drug, latex, and other allergies?

☒ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q7 = 1

Q8 If yes to question 7, how is the initial allergy information typically entered into the system?
(Select all that relevant)

☐ Manually by Doctor (1)

☐ Manually by Pharmacist (5)

☒ Manually by Nurse (6)

☐ Manually by Dietitian (7)

☐ Automatically from Previous Records (2)

☒ Manually by Administrative Staff (3)

☐ Other (Please Specify) (4)

Display This Question:

If Q7 = 1

Q9 If yes to question 7, who is responsible for updating and/or checking allergy information in the patient's electronic record? (Select all that apply)

☐ Clinicians (e.g., doctors, nurses) (1)

☐ Administrative Staff (2)

☐ Pharmacists (3)

☐ IT/Technical Support Staff (4)

☐ Don't Know (5)

☐ Other (Please Specify) (6)

Q10 How is the allergy information flagged or highlighted in the patient's records to alert healthcare providers?

☐ Red Flag (1)

☐ Pop-up Alert (2)

☐ Highlighted Text (3)

☐ Other (Please Specify) (4)

☐ Not highlighted/ alerted on the system (5)

Q11 What training, if any, is provided to staff on the correct recording of allergies in patient records?

☐ Mandatory Training Sessions (1)

☐ Optional Training (2)

☐ No Training Provided (3)

☐ Other (Please Specify) (4)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 11 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 centrally record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Q12 If training is provided on allergy documentation, does it specifically cover different types of allergies in the training materials?

- ☐ Only drug allergy recording (1)
- ☐ Both drug and non-drug allergy recording (2)
- ☐ Drug, food, and other non-drug allergy recording (e.g., latex) (3)
- ☐ Don't know/ Unsure (4)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 12 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 centrally record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Q13 Does your Trust have a Local Guideline or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place covering allergy documentation on the EPR?

- ☐ Yes (3)
- ☒ No (5)
- ☐ Don't know/ Unsure (4)

Display This Question:

If Q13 = 3

Q14 If yes to Question 13, does this guideline/SOP include documentation for allergens below?
(Select all that relevant)

- ☐ Drugs (1)
- ☐ Food (2)
- ☐ Other non-drug substances (e.g. latex) (3)
- ☐ Don't know/ Unsure (5)

Not applicable.

Q15 Does your hospital have access to specialist allergy advice for paediatric patients?

- ☐ Yes, please specify if this service available is available through In-House, Local Centre or Regional Centre. (1) _____
- ☐ No (2)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 15 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 is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide paediatric services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Q16 Does your hospital have access to specialist allergy advice for adult patients?

☐ Yes, please specify if this service available is available through In-House, Local Centre or Regional Centre. (1) _____

☐ No (2)

End of Block: Section 2: Allergy Recording System

Start of Block: Section 3: Allergy incidents

Section 3: Incident Section 3: Patient Safety Incidents In this section, we would like to gather some information about patient safety incidents related to allergies in hospital, for example patients who have been administered penicillin antibiotics when they have a penicillin allergy. We would like information on up to 10 cases each for both drug allergy and food or non-drug allergy incidents, prioritised by severity of harm, followed by the most recent incidents.

Our local risk team recommends that you gather the following information for your incident reporting system before answering the following questions:

1. Drug allergy incidents- Allergen, Age, Level of harm
2. Food and other non-drug allergy incidents- Allergen, Age, Reactions, If reported as serious incident, Level of harm, Is the allergen previously documented in patients' note, Is the the allergen correctly documented on EPR
3. Common causes identified on food and other non-drug allergy incidents reported.

Tips:

We recognize that many Trusts may not have a specific category for food and other non-drug allergies in their incident reporting portals. However, we have identified a few related categories that are often associated with the documentation of these incidents, including:

1. Food allergens incidents:

- Insufficient help with eating and drinking
- All other medication incidents (errors with prescribing, administration, follow-up etc.)

2. Medication allergen incidents:

- All other medication incidents (errors with prescribing, administration, follow-up etc.)
- Other injury/accident
- Inadequate or inappropriate medical care

3. Other search terms including- "anaphylaxis", "allergy", "food allergy", "allergic", "urticaria", "urticarial", "hives", "angioedema", "anaphylactic", "non-drug allergy", "adrenaline", "wheezing", "stridor", "EpiPen", "antihistamine"

4. Consider other search terms for non-drug allergy incidents including "Latex", "Chlorhexidine", "Povidone iodine", "Macrogol", "PEG-polyethylene glycol", "Polysorbate 20", "Polysorbate 80", "Mannitol", "EDTA", "Tromatamol", "Trismatamol", "Metacresol", "Arginine"

Q17 Does the incident reporting platform have a specific category for recording food or other non-drug allergy incidents?

☐ Yes (1)

☒ No (2)

Q18 In the last 10 years, has your Trust recorded any incidents where a patient was administered a food, drug, or other substance (e.g., latex) they were known to be allergic to?

☐ Yes (1)

☒ No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q18 = 1

Q19 If yes to question 18, how many such incidents have been reported in the last 10 years?
[Numerical Response]

☐ <5, please specify (1) _____

☐ 5 - 9, please specify (2) _____

☐ 10 - 19, please specify (3)

☐ ≥ 20, please specify (4) _____

☐ Don't know (5)

Not applicable.

Q20 If yes to question 18, please indicate the number of incidents for each category: [Numerical Response]

☐ Drug allergy incidents (1)

☐ Food allergy incidents (2)

☐ Incidents to other allergic substances (3)

☐ Don't know/ unaware (4)

Not applicable.

Q21 Considering the start date of your EPR system, how many years' worth of incident data have you been able to search for this survey? Ideally, up to 10 years. (e.g. 2014 - 2024)

Not applicable

Q22 For reported DRUG ALLERGY incidents, what are the drugs involved, age group (≤ 17 or > 17 years), and level of harm (no harm, low harm, moderate harm, severe harm or death), listing up to 10 cases prioritized by severity of harm, followed by the most recent incidents? Please indicate the total cases below if more than 10 cases were reported.

Example: Case 1 (Amoxicillin, >17yo, low harm).

☐ Case 1 (allergen, age, level of harm) (1)

☐ Case 2 (allergen, age, level of harm) (2)

☐ Case 3 (allergen, age, level of harm) (3)

☐ Case 4 (allergen, age, level of harm) (4)

☐ Case 5 (allergen, age, level of harm) (5)

☐ Case 6 (allergen, age, level of harm) (7)

☐ Case 7 (allergen, age, level of harm) (8)

☐ Case 8 (allergen, age, level of harm) (9)

☐ Case 9 (allergen, age, level of harm) (10)

☐ Case 10 (allergen, age, level of harm) (11)

☐ If more than 10 cases are reported, please indicate the total number of cases below.
(13) _____

☐ No drug allergy incidents reported (14)

Not applicable.

Q23 For reported FOOD and OTHER NON-DRUG ALLERGY incidents, what are the allergens involved, age (confirm age via clinical record if required), reactions, if serious incident reported and level of harm (no harm, low harm, moderate harm, severe harm or death), listing up to 10 cases prioritized by severity of harm, followed by the most recent incidents?

Please indicate the total cases below if more than 10 cases were reported.

Example: Case 1 (Peanut, 3yo, anaphylaxis, serious incident reported, moderate harm).

☐ Case 1 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (1)

☐ Case 2 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (2)

☐ Case 3 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (3)

☐ Case 4 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (4)

☐ Case 5 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (5)

☐ Case 6 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (7)

☐ Case 7 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (8)

☐ Case 8 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (9)

☐ Case 9 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (10)

☐ Case 10 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm) (11)

☐ If more than 10 cases report, please indicate the total number of cases below. (13)

☐ No food allergy OR other non-drug allergy incidents reported (14)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 23 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Q24 For FOOD AND OTHER NON-DRUG ALLERGY incidents, how many of the incidents was the allergen clearly documented in patients notes/correspondence prior to the incident? Please insert the number of cases involved in each category. (e.g. 0 - 100)

☐ Food allergies documented correctly, please specify: (1)

☐ Food allergies not documented, please specify: (2)

☐ Non-drug allergies documented correctly, please specify: (3)

☐ Non-drug allergies not documented, please specify: (4)

☐ The food/ non-drug allergens were not previously known (7)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 24 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Q25 For FOOD AND OTHER NON-DRUG ALLERGY incidents, how many of the incidents was the allergen correctly documented on the relevant field in EPR prior to incident (Cerner / Epic / Other)? Please insert the number of cases involved in each category. (e.g. 0 - 100)

☐ Food allergies documented correctly, please specify: (1)

☐ Food allergies not documented, please specify: (2)

☐ Non-drug allergies documented correctly, please specify: (3)

☐ Non-drug allergies not documented, please specify: (4)

☐ The food/ non-drug allergens were not previously known (5)

Not applicable.

Q26 What were the causes identified in the food or other non-drug incidents? (Multiple answers allowed)

☐ Allergy not recorded in EPR (1)

☐ Allergy recorded but not flagged/alerted (2)

☐ Staff did not check EPR (3)

☐ Incorrect substance administered due to similar names/packaging (4)

☐ System error or failure (5)

☐ Other (Please Specify) (6)

☐ Unsure/ Don't know (7)

Not applicable.

End of Block: Section 3: Allergy incidents

Start of Block: Section 4: Feedback and Improvements

Q27 What challenges, if any, does your Trust face in accurately recording and managing allergy information in EPR systems?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 27 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.

Q28 What improvements do you suggest could be made at a national level to better manage allergy information in patient records?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 28 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.

End of Block: Section 4: Feedback and Improvements
