

Physician Associates (Pas) prescribing

Reference Number: RDF2375-24

Date of Response: 16/04/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

1 *In several physician associates (PAs) have erroneously prescribed medications to patients. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:*

Answer: The Trust response is 0. Please note, Physician Associates do not prescribe at the Trust.

The response to the following questions 2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 is not applicable.

2 *The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate?*

3 *The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions?*

4 *The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e. patients given medication?*

5 *The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e. patients not given medications?*

6 *Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed?*

7 *Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions?*

8 *Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your trust (e.g. PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality)?*

9 *What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?*

Several trusts have reported situations in which their physician associates (PAs) have erroneously ordered ionising radiation. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:

10 *Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation?*

Answer: We do not record this detail directly. This would only be noted in the incident description if the reporter chose to include it, and a search for 'physician associate'/'PA' does not return any results.

The Freedom of Information Act allows the public to ask for copies of information held. This information is not held in documentation within the Trust; therefore we are unable to release information in response to this question.

11 *Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation, and these requests were acted on (i.e. the patient received the scan with ionising radiation as requested by the PA)?*

Please see response to question 10.