I would like information about the provider of pharmacy services to the hospitals in your trust.

Could you please provide the following information, by hospital:
1. Are the pharmacy services in-house or outsourced? (proceed to Section I if in-house and Section II if outsourced). If part of the services are in-house (tendered through the Department of Health / NHS frameworks) and part outsourced (for example for outpatients), please answer both parts.

Pharmacy services to most Trust locations are provided in-house. East London NHS Foundation Trust provides pharmacy services to two wards in Bedfordshire. Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust provides pharmacy services to some services in West Essex.

2. Who are your suppliers for:
   2.1. Clozapine (antipsychotic) Mylan
   2.2. Fluoxetine (antidepressant) CMU contract holders via wholesaler depending on product.
   2.3. Lithium carbonate (anticonvulsant) Via wholesalers depending on product.

Section I – in-house pharmacy
1. Did the trust tender through the Department of Health’s Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU)? CMU contracts are used where available for the purchase of pharmaceuticals. Otherwise mainly purchased through pharmaceutical wholesalers.
   a. If not, tendered through CMU:
      i. How did the trust / hospital tender?
      ii. Who applied to fill the tender?
      iii. What were the tender criteria?
      iv. Why was the chosen supplier awarded the contract?
      v. Is the chosen supplier the trust’s de-facto supplier?
      vi. What is the annual cost of the contract?

b. If tendered through CMU:
   i. How many suppliers are engaged with the hospitals to provide pharmaceuticals?
      Most items are supplied via four wholesalers. Individual pharmaceutical companies will be contacted when this is not possible. It is not possible to quantify the number in use at any particular time.
   ii. On average, what discounts does the supplier offer vs. the retail price? The Trust believes that this information is of commercial interest and may prejudice either the supplier or the Trust. The Trust is therefore applying Section 43 of the Act (Commercial Interests):

2. Delivery of pharmaceuticals:
   a. How often do you get deliveries from pharmaceutical suppliers? At least twice daily.
b. Is the delivery a fixed amount of each contracted drug or is it based on the hospital’s stock of the drug i.e. more frequently used drugs are delivered in larger quantities and more frequently by the supplier? The frequency of deliveries and amount ordered, will depend on the frequency the supplier delivers and the usage of the product during that time period. This can vary considerably.

c. Is the stock of each drug monitored manually on an Excel sheet or electronically via a specialised software? Stock levels are maintained using specialist pharmacy stock control and dispensing software systems.

i. If monitored by specialist software, who is the provider of said software? EMIS

3. Current provider:

a. Has / have the current providers always been the suppliers of pharmaceuticals for the hospital for more than 3 years? Most items are supplied via four wholesalers. Individual pharmaceutical companies will be contacted when this is not possible. It is not possible to quantify the number in use at any particular time.

i. If not, who was the previous supplier? Most items are supplied via four wholesalers. Individual pharmaceutical companies will be contacted when this is not possible. It is not possible to quantify the number in use at any particular time.

ii. Why were the old supplier’s contract not renewed? Most items are supplied via four wholesalers. Individual pharmaceutical companies will be contacted when this is not possible. It is not possible to quantify the number in use at any particular time.

Section II – Outsourced pharmacy

1. Current provider:

a. Who is the current provider of your outsourced pharmacy services? East London NHS Foundation Trust (Bedfordshire), Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust (West Essex Community)

b. Are they the de-facto provider for all pharmaceutical needs? If not, could you list the other providers? The majority of pharmacy services are provided by the Trust’s in-house pharmacy.

c. How did the hospital contract the current provider? Each is the local NHS Trust for those sites.

i. What is the duration of the contract? Ongoing with notice period.

ii. What were the key terms of the contract that the supplier had to meet? The Trust believes that this information is of commercial interest and may prejudice either the supplier or the Trust. The Trust is therefore applying Section 43 of the Act (Commercial Interests):

iii. How many suppliers applied for the contract? n/a

iv. Has / have the current providers always been the suppliers of pharmaceuticals for the hospital for more than 3 years? n/a

1. If not, who was the previous supplier? n/a

2. Why were the old supplier’s contract not renewed? n/a

d. On average, what discounts does the supplier offer vs. the retail price? The Trust believes that this information is of commercial interest and may prejudice either the supplier or the Trust. The Trust is therefore applying Section 43 of the Act (Commercial Interests):

e. How often do you get deliveries from pharmaceutical suppliers? This information will need to be obtained from the relevant Trusts:

www.elft.nhs.uk
www.pah.nhs.uk
f. Is the delivery a fixed amount of each contracted drug or is it based on the hospital’s stock of the drug i.e. more frequently used drugs are delivered in larger quantities and more frequently by the supplier? This information will need to be obtained from the relevant Trusts.

www.elft.nhs.uk
www.pah.nhs.uk

g. Is the stock of each drug monitored manually on an Excel sheet or electronically via a specialised software? This information will need to be obtained from the relevant Trusts.

www.elft.nhs.uk
www.pah.nhs.uk

i. If monitored by specialist software, who is the provider of said software? This information will need to be obtained from the relevant Trusts.

www.elft.nhs.uk
www.pah.nhs.uk

Section 43: Commercial interests

(1) Information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret.

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to; prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

(3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice the interests mentioned in subsection (2).

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT’s Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link https://eput.nhs.uk