

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.19.1336
Date Received: 18th November 2019

Information Requested:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Why is the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) not given to parents of school children with the Fluenz Tetra nasal spray consent form?

Parents are provided with information about the vaccine to assist them to make an informed decision about their decision to consent for their child to receive the vaccine. Information regarding the vaccine is provided through links on the covering letter and within the vaccine specific leaflet that accompanies the consent form. These resources are reviewed annually and issued by the Department of Health in preparation for each Childhood Flu Programme.

Contact details for the immunisation team are also available on all communications sent out so that parents are able to contact the service directly should they have any queries or concerns.

The Patient Information Leaflet is made available to us with the vaccine supplies and is provided to children after their vaccination. It is standard practice for patient information leaflets to be supplied at the time that a medication is supplied or administered.

2. Have all staff who give or assist with giving the nasal spray read the Manufacturer's insert?

All staff read the manufacturer's insert that accompanies the vaccine; the manufacturer's insert is the PIL. In addition all staff members attend comprehensive training in all aspects of their role and are assessed in practice to ensure they have the knowledge and practice to undertake their role.

3. Are all staff administering the spray competent in emergency resuscitation? Do they carry an emergency resuscitation kit?

All staff administering Childhood Flu Vaccinations are trained in emergency resuscitation and carry emergency equipment at every session.

4. Do the staff administering the nasal spray operate a 'watch and wait' period, in order to monitor any adverse reactions? If not, do all school staff have adequate medical training to recognise an adverse reaction?

In accordance with guidelines detailed in the Green Book *'Recipients of any vaccine should be observed for immediate ADRs. There is no evidence to*

support the practice of keeping patients under longer observation in the surgery' (Public Health England 2012).

The Green Book is updated annually as a minimum and the guidance above has not been changed since 2012.

A risk assessment is undertaken prior to all immunisation sessions, which includes planning for the event of a serious adverse reaction. Nurses remain on the school site for 30 minutes after an immunisation session to ensure that they are available in the event of an adverse reaction to vaccination.

The Green Book has the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures, for vaccine preventable infectious diseases in the UK and is the main point of reference for any healthcare professional administering vaccinations.

5. Do schools receive a monetary incentive from the CCG/PHE for turning into a medical facility for the day?

The Trust provide the immunisation service, however you would need to contact the relevant CCG or PHE direct with regards to monetary incentives

6. Do schools receive any incentive (monetary or otherwise) from Ofsted for turning into a medical facility for the day?

The Trust provides the immunisation service, however you would need to contact Ofsted direct with regards to monetary incentives.

7. Do head teachers have a choice of dates on which to turn the school into a medical facility? If not, are they able to change the planned date?

Schools are given a proposed date of vaccination. If there is requirement from the school to change the date a new date will be agreed.

8. Does the Trust follow the advice gained from the Supreme Court's Montgomery ruling, on the duty to disclose?

The Supreme Court Montgomery ruling states: *'a doctor must, when questioned specifically by a patient about risks involved in a particular treatment proposed, answer truthfully and as fully as the questioner requires* (Neuberger et al 2015). All clinicians working in the immunisation team will respond accurately whenever a parent or young person asks for any further information on the vaccinations being given.

9. Does the Trust accept that it is breaching its duty of care by giving a person medicine without full disclosure of risks and side effects?

This is not a request for recorded information – however the Trust does not believe that it is breaching its duty of care and that it provides sufficient opportunities for parents to provide informed consent and make any queries prior to vaccination offer.

Parents are provided with information published by the Department of Health and this is updated annually or if there are any changes to support them to

make an informed decision regarding vaccination being offered. The leaflet supplied (in paper or electronic form) details side effects of the vaccination.

10. Does the Trust believe that schools are an ideal setting for a medical procedure to take place?

This is a request for our opinion and not a request for recorded information.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/357/bmj.j2224>

References:

Lord Neuberger, Lady Hale, Lord Kerr, Lord Clarke, Lord Wilson, Lord Reed & Lord Hodge (2015), Montgomery (Appellant) v Lanarkshire Health Board (Respondent) (Scotland), available at: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2013-0136-judgment.pdf> (last accessed 29.11.19)

Public Health England (2014), Immunisation procedures, Green Book of Immunisations, available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/147915/Green-Book-Chapter-4.pdf (last accessed 29.11.19)

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