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2nd September 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 200819.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

I'm currently doing a case study on Pulsed Ventricular Tachycardia and looking at the interventions available pre hospital.

Primarily I'm looking at Amiodarone Hydrochloride. This is the primary drug of choice in hospital, but it not indicated in the JRCALC Guidelines which reserves amiodarone for cardiac arrests only.

Do you currently have a PGD for amiodarone for the purpose of Pulsed VT or do you only use amiodarone as per JRCALC guidelines for cardiac arrests only.

We use amiodarone in cardiac arrest in accordance with Resuscitation Council UK (RCUK) and JRCALC guidelines. We are in the process of introducing amiodarone for use by our critical care paramedics (CCP) for the management of tachyarrhythmias in line with RCUK guidelines. Amiodarone does not require a PGD as it is included for use by Paramedics within schedule 17 of the Human Medicines regulations 2012; this is the legal basis for the possession and administration by a paramedic, JRCALC provides guidance with regard indications and is aimed at general ambulance practice.

In addition to amiodarone, our CCPs also have the option for synchronised cardioversion for tachyarrhythmias, including VT, where adverse signs are present - <https://www.resus.org.uk/library/2015-resuscitation-guidelines/peri-arrest-arrhythmias>

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust