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15th January 2025
Internal Ref: 251231
Email:

Dear ,

The trust acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, referenced above. Please ensure you quote this number in any future correspondence.

FOI Request

You asked us:

I am a paramedic student conducting a service improvement project regarding End of Life Care decision-making in the pre-hospital setting.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding your Trust's use of the Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment (ReSPECT) or equivalent Advance Care Plans (ACP).

- 1. Does your Trust currently have a clinical policy, guideline, or protocol that explicitly authorises and supports paramedics to initiate and complete a ReSPECT form (or equivalent Treatment Escalation Plan) for a patient in the pre-hospital setting?**
- 2. Does your trust currently allow paramedics to access current/ previously made ReSPECT/ DNACPR/ equivalent ACP forms via an online service, such as the Electronic Patient Care Record? (ePCR)**
- 3. For the year 2023-2024 (or the most recent 12-month period available), please provide the total number of ReSPECT forms (or equivalent ACPs) that were newly initiated by your paramedics. (Please exclude data regarding patients who already had a form in place upon crew arrival).**



4. Does your Electronic Patient Care Record system currently have a specific data field to record that a ReSPECT/ACP conversation has been initiated by the paramedic team?

5. Does the Trust provide specific training modules for paramedics focused on the communication skills and legal decision-making required to initiate end-of-life care plans (as distinct from standard resuscitation training)?

Formal Response

The Trust confirms it holds the part of the information you have requested.

1. Does your Trust currently have a clinical policy, guideline, or protocol that explicitly authorises and supports paramedics to initiate and complete a ReSPECT form (or equivalent Treatment Escalation Plan) for a patient in the pre-hospital setting?

No - We do not complete ReSPECT plans for patients because they are designed to be a conversation between the patient and an appropriate healthcare professional involved in a patient's care, in advance of the information on the plan being used when the person may be unable to express their views. They are completed as part of a structured conversation about the patient's wishes, wants, preferences and fears relating to potential future care decisions, should they find themselves unable to communicate these in an emergency. As ambulance clinicians we are users of these plans to help shape our care decisions for these patients in an emergency, but we are not best placed to co-create these plans with patients when we interact with them, they would usually do this with their doctor or specialist senior clinician before they have a medical emergency.

2. Does your trust currently allow paramedics to access current/ previously made ReSPECT/ DNACPR/ equivalent ACP forms via an online service, such as the Electronic Patient Care Record? (ePCR)

Yes- We have a trust specific platform called IBIS which holds ReSPECT plans and DNACPR forms, as well as other care plans. The trust is also working with external partners to integrate with system Shared Care Records.

3. For the year 2023-2024 (or the most recent 12-month period available), please provide the total number of ReSPECT forms (or equivalent ACPs) that were newly initiated by your paramedics. (Please exclude data regarding patients who already had a form in place upon crew arrival).

None

4. Does your Electronic Patient Care Record system currently have a specific data field to record that a ReSPECT/ACP conversation has been initiated by the paramedic team?



No

5. Does the Trust provide specific training modules for paramedics focused on the communication skills and legal decision-making required to initiate end-of-life care plans (as distinct from standard resuscitation training)?

No. We do not initiate the plans.

If you do not use the ReSPECT form specifically, please answer regarding your local equivalent

Our region uses ReSPECT Plans in the community.

Next steps

Please note you will be able to source a lot of information which is made available on our website.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance, via the following email address: FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer.

We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.

Alternatively, the ICO's postal address is:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

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