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Date 18th November 2019

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/19/11/09.

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

Any information you have on TIA referral pathways, protocols or guidelines which allow paramedics the option of bypassing the accident and emergency department.

I would also like to have the name and contact details of the lead person responsible for this.

At present we follow the guidance of JRCALC which advises:

‘Patients with TIA may be at high risk of stroke and require urgent specialist assessment based on locally agreed pathways of care’.

At present we do not have locally agreed TIA direct pathways, so all patients suspected of having a TIA are conveyed to their nearest ED (Emergency Department) or HASU (Hyper-acute Stroke Unit). Within Kent, Surrey and Sussex this will vary depending on whether there are HASUs already established or not. If there are HASUs the advice is to convey there. If not, the advice is to convey to the local ED (as long as it accepts stroke patients).

We are exploring TIA direct referral pathways and the administration of aspirin as part of ongoing stroke reconfiguration work and hope to be able to refer directly to local TIA clinics in due course once this work is complete.

Claire Hall is our lead on this claire.hall@secamb.nhs.uk

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