

Freedom of Information Response

Date: 13 February 2017
Log no: FOI 826

Please note that these questions only apply to our District Nursing Service in Luton, and all answers have been supplied by them.

1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination/check, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces (manual bowel evacuation) in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?

The Trust does not have a formal policy, however we follow the RCN guidance on bowel management for spinal injury patients. We also have standard operating procedures regarding this care and competencies.

2. If the Trust does, please supply a copy of this document.

Please see attached: SOP relating to bowel care and bowel management competencies.

3. If the Trust does not, how is bowel care managed in the above patient groups who present with this care need?

Bowel care is managed by the District Nursing Service and only by those who have attended the bowel care training provided by our local continence service (this is provided by SEPT) and have had competency sign off.

4. Does the Trust employ a specialist continence nurse(s)?

No, we access a local continence service employed by SEPT.

5. If the Trust employs a specialist continence nurse(s) can they (a) undertake digital rectal checks, digital rectal stimulation and digital removal of faeces (manual bowel evacuation), otherwise known as 'intimate digital bowel care procedures' (b) provide instruction to other nurses to enable them to perform intimate digital bowel care procedures'?

Not applicable.

6. If the Trust does not employ a specialist continence nurse, is there another health care professional who undertakes intimate digital bowel care procedures including manual bowel evacuation? If yes, who does this?

The District Nursing Teams provide this care, ranging from Health Care Assistants to Community Nursing Sisters who have completed relevant training and competencies, as above.

7. Does your Trust have a policy in place that will allow your staff to do trans-anal irrigation (TAI) of the bowel as a method of bowel care management for spinal cord injured patients? Do you train your staff to do TAI/ bowel irrigation?

No.

8. Do you run bowel care courses for your staff that allows them to deliver the full range of bowel care required by spinal cord injured patients or others with a neurogenic bowel?

Yes, this training is delivered by our local Continence Service and updates are provided by our Practice Development Lead Nurse.



9. If yes, please provide details. If no, does the Trust have a policy which allows for the personal care assistants (PAs) of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care? If personal carers have undertaken the appropriate training and are deemed competent, this would be acceptable.