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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CLINICAL GUIDELINES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to adherence to clinical guidelines in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Can you please advise any SIGN clinical guidelines, or where specifically shared by the Scottish government and/or relevant NHS authorities such as Education for Healthcare, NICE clinical guidelines, that your health board have chosen not to follow or adhere to recommendations within?

Answer:

This information is not collected centrally. Individual service management teams are responsible for implementation and compliance with relevant guidelines.

When a SIGN or clinical guideline is published, an implementation group is set up including a lead clinician and multidisciplinary team with relevant expertise in the service area. This group discusses all the recommendations in the guideline and ascertains what the current compliance level is. Any areas of non compliance or partial compliance will be reviewed using a matrix and ascribed a level of risk based on the likelihood and effect on the patient of non compliance. This information is circulated in an impact assessment document to relevant services for them to take action on these areas. If implementation of any of the recommendations is not achievable, items would be added to the appropriate risk register for the service an escalated as required.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at

www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive