

Date: 18/08/2026
Our Ref: 11675
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PREGNANCY TESTING AND PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to pregnancy testing before psychiatric treatment in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Please provide copies of any current policies, guidelines, standard operating procedures, admission protocols, or clinical pathways relating to pregnancy testing within your adult mental health services. Specifically, I would be appreciate copies of any documents that address:

1. Pregnancy testing (urine or serum hCG) for women of reproductive age admitted to adult psychiatric inpatient wards.
2. Pregnancy testing during emergency psychiatric assessment, psychiatric liaison, crisis resolution, or health-based places of safety.
3. Physical health admission assessment protocols that include pregnancy status or pregnancy testing.
4. Guidance relating to pregnancy testing prior to prescribing psychotropic medications (for example, valproate, lithium, or other medications where pregnancy status may influence prescribing).
5. Any admission checklists or clerking proformas that include documentation of pregnancy status or pregnancy testing.

If no specific policy exists, I would be grateful if you could confirm this.

Answer:

Pregnancy testing is offered as a standard part of an admission to mental health services if within the age limits, and also if we are aware the person is sexually active whilst on pass home. The following fields are part of the routine physical health admission screening:

PREGNANCY (ROUTINE FOR WOMAN <50):
IS PATIENT PREGNANT: yes (give details) / no
URINE PREGNANCY TEST COMPLETED (give details) : yes / no / not required
TEST POSITIVE FOR PREGNANCY (inform medics if +tive): yes / no

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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