

Request FOI0514001:

I would like some information under the Freedom of Information Laws.

Please would you give me your trusts information on the following.

1 - Do you have a policy regarding the diagnosis of pathological demand avoidance (PDA) by clinicians within your organisation? If so, please provide a copy of that policy.

2 - PDA is a condition not found in the ICD or DSM manuals and only briefly referred to in NICE guidance. Do you have any policy that would constrain a clinician who may be considering a diagnosis not found in these manuals and guides?

3 - Are there any circumstances in which a clinician or a clinical team would be expected to consult with non-clinical management before making a diagnosis?"

Response:

Thank you for your request dated 30 Apr 2014 in which you made a Freedom of Information request. Please see Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust response below;

1 - Do you have a policy regarding the diagnosis of pathological demand avoidance (PDA) by clinicians within your organisation? If so, please provide a copy of that policy.

No.

2 - PDA is a condition not found in the ICD or DSM manuals and only briefly referred to in NICE guidance. Do you have any policy that would constrain a clinician who may be considering a diagnosis not found in these manuals and guides?

No, we don't have any policy constraining clinicians to consider/ repute diagnoses or constructs not found in ICD-10/ DSM, but the 'medical model' is to consider categorical arrangement of disorders/ presentations such as ICD/ DSM.

In situations which do not fit this model, as doctors, we would rely on the following principles:

- What is in the best interest of the patient/ client, and their family.
- What is the general consensus, at this current time of understanding by peers from similar professional background? As such, we have discussed the concept of PDA in continuous professional development sessions and peer supervision, both with colleagues Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and with Community Paediatricians.
- There has also been quite a lot of training locally, although this has been mostly directed at specialist education professionals such as Education Psychologists, as PDA is often raised by schools due to marked educational problems.
- What is the role of professionals from other backgrounds in developing a formulation of the client's difficulties if a simple categorical diagnosis such as those found in ICD/ DSM doesn't fit?

3 - Are there any circumstances in which a clinician or a clinical team would be expected to consult with non-clinical management before making a diagnosis?

Yes, any funding for tertiary referral / specialist referral Centre (such as the Elizabeth Newton Centre in Nottingham) must be discussed with Clinical Director/ Service manager, and ultimately with Commissioners.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a request for a review of our decision you should write to:

The Information Governance Manager
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
CG08/09
Campbell House
Campbell Square
Northampton

NN1 3EB

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours Sincerely,

The Freedom of Information Team

The Freedom of Information Team

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