

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 17-403

Date 18 August 2017



Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

Please note the Trust has a pharmacy postal anticoagulation monitoring service (PAMS) which provides warfarin dose advice using RAID software to patients registered with most South Bristol GP surgeries.

1. **Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust collects data on the number of patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who are treated with warfarin by i) gender and ii) age group.**
 - If confirmed, please provide the number of i) male and ii) female patients
 - If confirmed, please provide the number of patients aged i) below 45 years old ii) 45-54 years old, iii) 55-64 years old, iv) 65-74 years old, v) 75-84 years old and vi) 85 years old and above

I can confirm The Trust does not collect this data by gender or age group. We are able to confirm however that PAMS currently has a total of 885 patients with atrial fibrillation as the primary reason for anticoagulation with warfarin.

2. **Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust collects data on the time in therapeutic range (TTR) of patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who are treated with warfarin.**
 - If confirmed, please provide details of the number of patients with a TTR (calculated over a maintenance period of at least 6 months while excluding those initiated within the last 6 weeks, as per NICE Clinical Guideline 180 (CG180)) of i) 64.9-55 per cent, ii) 54.9-45 per cent, iii) 44.9-35 per cent and iv) 34.9 per cent and below.

We are able to supply TTR data for our patients with AF as the primary reason for anticoagulation. Please note this data does not exclude patients initiated within the last 6 weeks, so they will be included in these figures. For the period 24/1/17 – 24/7/17 the number of patients with TTR in the given ranges is:

64.9 - 55 per cent	111 patients
54.9 - 45 percent	61 patients
44.9 - 35 percent	28 patients
34.9 and below	13 patients

- 3. Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust collects data on the International Normalised Ratio (INR) values of patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who are treated with warfarin.**
- If confirmed, please provide details of number of patients within the past six months recorded with i) two INR values higher than five, ii) one INR value higher than eight, or iii) two INR values less than 1.5.**

I can confirm the Trust does not collect this data at an individual patient level, or by diagnosis.

- 4. Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust collects data on the frequency of blood tests for purposes of INR readings of patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation.**
- If confirmed, please provide details of the average interval between blood tests for INR readings.**

This information is not collected by PAMS by diagnosis; therefore we do not hold this information. We are able to disclose however the average for the service in May 2017 was 21 day interval between INRs.

- 5. Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust collects data on the number of patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who are treated with warfarin and self-monitoring or self-managing their anticoagulation therapy.**
- If confirmed, please provide the number of patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who are treated with warfarin who are i) self-monitoring and receiving dosing instructions from a healthcare professional; and ii) self-managing their anticoagulation.**

The Trust does not collect this data therefore we do not hold this information.

- 6. Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust has conducted a root cause analysis of adverse events related to anticoagulation treatment in atrial fibrillation patients.**
- If confirmed, please provide details of any root cause analysis of adverse events related to anticoagulation treatment in atrial fibrillation patients in the last 12 months.**

We can confirm there have been no serious incident investigations in the past 12 months where the incident is about anticoagulation for atrial fibrillation.

7. Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust has written clinical protocols in place for reassessing patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who have poor warfarin anticoagulation control (as defined by NICE CG180) to determine why their TTR/INR are unstable.

- **If confirmed, please provide evidence of the protocol(s)**

I can confirm the Trust does not have any written clinical protocols in place.

The arrhythmia team assess patients INRs, and time in therapeutic range, at pre-op assessment appointments, but not at any other time.

8. Please confirm or deny whether your NHS Trust has information, education and support tools available for patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation to help them understand their treatment options and support adherence.

- **If confirmed, please provide evidence of the information, education and support tools that you use.**

I can confirm the Trust uses the following education and support tools for patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation to understand their treatment options and support adherence:

- Arrhythmia Alliance and BHF booklets
- Information from the Atrial fibrillation Association on A Fib
- The Trust refers patients to all three websites. (BHF, AA, AFA)
- We teach patients at every opportunity re A Fib (In pre-op appointments and on the wards)
- We have a decision making tool available in outpatients re anticoagulation and information sheets, to support decision making around warfarin and NOACS,
- We have a help-line to enable patients to discuss A Fib with us directly
- We take part in national pulse-check days.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

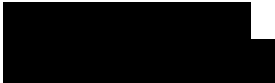
Trust Secretary
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

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