Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Information Governance Dept

FOI 1783

11.07.2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. **The numbers of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants in the following years after a phone consultation.**

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (SO FAR)

2. **The numbers of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants in the following years after one GP consultation regarding their mental health.**

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (SO FAR)

Can I also confirm if there is a method by which the NHS tracks side effects experienced from use of these drugs?

Antidepressants in this instance refers to any of the following classifications of drugs: SSRIs, SNRIs, NASSAs, TCAs, SARIs, MAOIs.

Response:

In respect of Q1 and Q2, this information would only be retrievable via a manual trawl as the information is not centrally held or recorded. We consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information.

For Q2 the Trust would not be assured information captured in patient notes would be able to address this question.

Process adverse drug reactions for all medications: Any drug may produce unwanted or unexpected adverse reactions. Rapid detection and recording of adverse drug reactions is of vital importance so that unrecognised hazards of a drug are identified promptly and the appropriate regulatory action is taken to ensure patient safety. Medication prescribers are urged to help by reporting adverse drug reactions to the Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA). More information on reporting suspected adverse drug reactions via the 'yellow card scheme' is given in the initial pages of the current British National Formulary (BNF). The simplest way to report an adverse drug reaction is via the 'Yellow Card Scheme' web-site www.yellowcard.gov.uk . 'Yellow cards' for reporting suspected adverse drug reactions can also be found in the back of the current BNF.

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