



Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
Gogledd Orllewin Cymru
*North West Wales
NHS Trust*

Date: 03 September 2009
Our Ref: JMJ/FOI/318/09

Ms Linda Heard
Support Officer
Committee Service
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

Linda.Heard@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

Dear Ms Heard,

Re: Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information regarding discrimination against people living with HIV in healthcare settings and in other settings by healthcare professionals which we received on 21 July 2009.

You asked us:-

1. *Examples of discrimination experienced by people living with HIV in healthcare settings*

We have no examples of discrimination experienced by people living with HIV in healthcare settings, as we have not been made aware of any issues.

2. *Policies and procedures employed by healthcare organisations and healthcare professionals in relation to the HIV virus and / or people living with HIV*

Please find an overview of the of policies and procedures employed by the North West Wales NHS Trust regarding the transmission of the HIV virus and people living with HIV with whom staff come into contact with.

- Welsh Assembly Government National Care Pathways and Service Specification for testing, diagnosis, treatment and supportive care – Providing for the needs of people with HIV / AIDS in Wales
- UK National Guidelines for HIV Testing 2008
- British HVA Association guidelines for immunization of HIV-infected adults 2008
- British HIV Association, BASHH and FSRH guidelines for the management of the sexual and reproductive health of people living with HIV infection 2008



- British HIV Association guidelines for the treatment of HIV-1-infected adults with antiretroviral therapy 2008
 - British HIV Association and Children's HIV Association guidelines for the management of HIV infection in pregnant women 2008
 - North West Wales NHS Trust Check List for HIV Test
 - Department of Health HIV Infected Health Care Workers – Guidance on Management and Patient Notification
 - UK National Guidelines for HIV Testing 2008
 - Department of Health Tackling HIV Stigma and Discrimination
 - Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in patients infected with HCV alone and in those co-infected with HIV
 - Guidelines for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV following Sexual Exposure
 - Guidelines for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV following Occupational Exposure
 - Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Health Care Workers Occupationally Exposed to HIV
3. *Training, education and awareness raising for healthcare professionals and people who work in healthcare settings regarding HIV and disability discrimination*

All staff directly involved in the care of HIV positive patients within the HIV / GUM Department including the Consultant, HIV Specialist Nurse, Specialist Registrar, Staff Grade Doctor, Nurses, Health Care Assistants, Secretary and Clerk regularly attend departmental meetings where the latest relevant national guidelines and protocols are discussed and implemented. Protocols and guidelines include the BHIVA – British HIV Association Standards for HIV Clinical Care 2007 and the Welsh Assembly Government National Care Pathway providing for the needs of people with HIV / AIDS in Wales 2009. There is a clinical guidelines and policy folder, all staff are encouraged to regularly access and read. Staff also attends local and national HIV conferences and meetings, cascading information to other staff.

The Department subscribes utilising the AIDS education budget to NAM (AIDSmap) HIV treatment update, all staff and patients have access to the regular publications. The Department also receives copies of h-tb (HIV treatment bulletin); to which all staff have access.

The HIV Specialist Nurse is a member of NHIVNA – National HIV Nurses Association, information is cascaded and regular publications are available for all staff to access.

At appointment, all staff are made aware of the unlawfulness of discriminating against people living with HIV or AIDS. There is a zero tolerance policy within the HIV / GUM Department with regard to discrimination and any breach of patient confidentiality and forms part of the contract for all staff within the Department.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review. I would assure you that the Trust is committed in trying to resolve complaints amicably and will always try to resolve the matter to your reasonable satisfaction. Should you wish to contact the Trust with regards to registering a complaint we would ask that you contact the Complaints Manager.

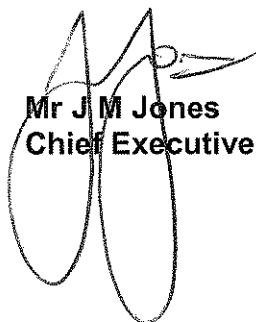
You should forward details of your complaint to:-

Complaints Manager
Nursing and Healthcare Governance Directorate
North Wales NHS Trust
Ysbyty Gwynedd
Bangor
LL57 2PW
Tel: 01248 384194

Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:-

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Mr J M Jones
Chief Executive