

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-129

NECS – John Snow House
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Durham
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By Email

2 July 2024

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 25 June 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your “right to know” under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (subsequently referred to as FOIA2000) which entitles you to be provided with information “held” by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Your Request

I would like to request a copy of “ICB guidelines on off label prescribing”.

Our Response

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

North East North Cumbria (NENC) ICB does not have any specific guidelines on off-label prescribing. There is a statement regarding unlicensed medicines on the NENC ICB formulary website homepage Section 5 at: [North East and North Cumbria Formulary \(northeastnorthcumbriaformulary.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbriaformulary.nhs.uk)

Prescribers are advised to follow their professional guidance such as:
<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-medical-practice>

www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk 

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and also advice from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) [Off-label or unlicensed use of medicines: prescribers' responsibilities – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/off-label-or-unlicensed-use-of-medicines-prescribers-responsibilities)

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer