

Ref: FOI/00398/CMICB
08 June 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Enfit Syringes for Administration of Medicines via Enteral Feeds**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding Enfit Syringes for administration of medicines via enteral feeds

Background

Enfit syringes are used for administration of medicines via enteral feeding tubes and cannot be prescribed on FP10. Please could you provide us with the following information on your arrangements for supply of Enfit syringes to help inform our commissioning intentions.

1) Do you have arrangements in place for the provision of Enfit Syringes for administration of medicines via enteral feeds for patients within the community?

If NO please confirm if patients are expected to source and purchase themselves?

If YES Please give details of:

- a) Which health care sector supplies the syringes (e.g. community pharmacy, HENS team, GP practice etc)**
- b) Is the supply patient or healthcare initiated?**
- c) What is the mechanism used for initiating and delivering/ collecting a supply?**

d) Is counselling on the administration of the medicine(s) included in the service?

e) Are all patient groups included ?

f) Quantity, frequency and size of syringes supplied?

g) How supply is initiated/monitored.

h) Please provide a service specification if in place.

2) Do you have a Policy or guidance relating to the administration of medicines via enteral tubes? If YES, please provide.

Our Response:

1) Please find listed below the information held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB in relation to the known arrangements in place for the provision of Enfit Syringes for administration of medicines via enteral feeds for patients within the community:

a) Community Pharmacy.

b) Combination of both, community pharmacists will only tend to give syringes when it is a dose less than 5mls for adults, or 1ml / 5ml oral syringe for a young child.

c) Supplied with medication when dispensed.

d) Yes, written instruction given.

e) Yes.

f) With each prescription, as requested by patient.

g) Provided with supply of medication.

h) No service specification in place.

Please find listed below information from the drug tariff in relation to Enfit Syringes:

• Provision for supply of either a 5ml plastic measuring spoon (which shall comply with BS 3221:Part 6:1987), or a 1ml, 5ml or 10ml plastic oral syringe measure with every oral liquid medicine, except where the manufacturer's pack includes one. Plastic oral syringe measures must be clearly labelled 'oral' and/or 'enteral' in a large font size, comply with appropriate British or European Standards (BS 3221:Part 7:1995 or an equivalent European Standard for the 5ml syringe) and be wrapped together with a bottle adaptor and instructions. Choice of whether a spoon or syringe (and its size) is supplied will depend on the nature of the medication regime.

2) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not have a policy or guidance relating to the administration of medicines via enteral tubes.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk*

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.