

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Thursday 13th June 2024. I am pleased to confirm the following.

How has antibiotic resistance affected your teams on a day-to-day basis?

Antibiotic resistance is becoming a challenge in our day-to-day clinical practice especially in elderly population who are institutionalised in health care facilities and immunocompromised patients. Treating infections in this group of individuals can be difficult as the bacteria causing these infections may not respond to our first line antibiotics. Physicians often end up prescribing broad-spectrum antibiotics in scenarios like this which may further complicate situations causing antibiotic associated adverse effects.

How have you and other medical staff changed your approach to treating bacterial infections over the years?

Education and raising awareness about rising antibiotic resistance is the way forwards. Antibiotics are prescribed in clinical practice only if there is a clinical need to do so. In patients with infection issues, start SMART, then FOCUS strategy is used to treat bacterial infections which means antibiotics are commenced while identification of bugs causing these bacterial infections is carried out. Once we have the diagnosis, 'targeted antibiotics' are used to avoid using broad spectrum antibiotics and associated side effects.

Are antibiotic resistant cases being recorded?

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have a robust programme of continuing surveillance of these antibiotic resistance cases. It is a mandatory requirement to report UKHSA about these antibiotic resistance cases.

How many antibiotic resistant cases have there been across the last 15 months and what are the trends?

We do not have this information in our data warehouse.

Do you have a patient story you could send me?

This question is exempt under section 40 of the Freedom of Information act – Personal Information – this would involve searching through large amounts on patient medical records.

What future plans does the hospital have to reduce antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotic resistance is a serious issue and hospitals across the country have antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programmes embedded in their organisations to tackle this.

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If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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