



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

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Ref: FOI/2024/10282

Date Received: 7th November 2024

Response Due: 5th December 2024

Date: 4th December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 7th November 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Inventory Management Systems (IMSs) are digital solutions designed to track, manage, and optimise the inventory of clinical supplies within healthcare settings, such as NHS Trusts. An IMS provides real-time visibility over a range of supplies, from consumables to high-cost implants, ensuring that critical items are available when needed while minimising waste and costs. IMS solutions often integrate with other systems to enhance efficiency, support compliance with regulatory standards, and streamline workflows, contributing to improved patient care and operational outcomes.

Please may you provide me with answers to the following:

- 1. Does your Trust use an Inventory Management System (IMS)?**
No.
- a. If 'Yes,' which company supplies this?**
N/A.
- b. If 'No,' do you have plans to procure an IMS within the next three years?**
No.

If the answer to Question 1 was yes, then:

- 2. Which company supplies the IMS?**
- 3. When was this system implemented?**

4. When was the most recent upgrade or change?
5. Did you procure this system independently, through NHS Supply Chain, or through some other route (please specify)?
6. Did the Trust use a different IMS prior to the current one? If so, please specify the previous system(s) and how long were they used for?
7. What are the key differences between the current IMS and any previous IMS in terms of functionality, ease of use, and integration with other Trust systems?
8. Does the current system manage the following:
 - a. High-cost implants (e.g., cardiac pacemakers, hip and knee replacements, spinal fusion devices)
 - b. Consumables (e.g., scalpels, blood vials, swabs)
 - c. Human tissue (e.g., corneal tissue, skin grafts, bone grafts, heart valves)
 - d. Other (please specify)
9. Does your IMS integrate with other Trust software (e.g., EPR, procurement platforms)? If yes, which?
10. What primary benefits has the Trust observed with the current IMS (e.g., cost savings, efficiency gains, regulatory compliance)?
11. Do you believe that you are receiving/expect to have received by the contract end good return on investment from this IMS?
12. What are the main challenges or limitations experienced with the system?
13. Does the Trust have plans to upgrade or replace the IMS within the next three years?
14. What new capabilities/improvements/features would be a priority in future IMS procurement (e.g., enhanced traceability, asset or human tissue tracking)?
15. Who is the best person within the Trust to speak to about IMS systems?

Please see answer to Question 1.

If the answer to Question 1 was no, then:

16. Do you have plans to procure an IMS within the next three years?
No.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111