

Ref. No: FOI1401
Date: 11/12/2024
Subject: Allergy Recording in Electronic Patient Records

REQUEST & RESPONSE

General Information

Q1 Trust Name:

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Q2 Type of Healthcare Facilities

1. District General Hospital (DGH)
2. Specialty Hospital
3. Private Hospital
4. Community Hospital
5. Other (Please Specify)

Q3 Demographic of Hospital Care

1. Adult Hospital
2. Paediatric Hospital
3. General Hospital (Both paediatric and adult)
4. GP surgery
5. Other (Please Specify)

Q4 Respondent's Role in the Trust:

1. Medical Records Manager
2. IT Specialist
3. Clinician
4. Administrator
5. Malcolm Gandy

Q5 Does your Trust use electronic patient records (EPR)?

1. Yes
2. No

Q6 Which EPR system does your Trust use?

1. Cerner
2. Epic

3. System C
4. Dedalus
5. Altera
6. Other (Please Specify)

Allergy Recording System

Q7 Does the EPR system used by your Trust include a specific section for recording food, drug, latex, and other allergies?

1. Yes
2. No

Not applicable

Q8 If yes to question 7, how is the initial allergy information typically entered into the system? (Select all that relevant)

1. Manually by Doctor
2. Manually by Pharmacist
3. Manually by Nurse
4. Manually by Dietitian
5. Automatically from Previous Records
6. Manually by Administrative Staff
7. Other (Please Specify)

Q9 If yes to question 7, who is responsible for updating and/or checking allergy information in the patient's electronic record? (Select all that apply)

1. Clinicians (e.g., doctors, nurses)
2. Administrative Staff
3. Pharmacist
4. IT/Technical Support Staff
5. Don't Know
6. Other (Please Specify)

Q10 How is the allergy information flagged or highlighted in the patient's records to alert healthcare providers?

1. Red Flag
2. Pop-up Alert
3. Highlighted Text
4. Other (Please Specify) Traffic like visual on patients record
5. Not highlighted/ alerted on the system

Q11 What training, if any, is provided to staff on the correct recording of allergies in patient records?

1. Mandatory Training Sessions
2. Optional Training
3. No Training Provided
- 4.

5. Other (Please Specify)

Part of the EMIS SC prescriber training, mandatory for access to the system

Q12 If training is provided on allergy documentation, does it specifically cover different types of allergies in the training materials?

- 1. Only drug allergy recording**
- 2. Both drug and non-drug allergy recording**
- 3. Drug, food, and other non-drug allergy recording (e.g., latex)**
- 4. Don't know/ Unsure**

Q13 Does your Trust have a Local Guideline or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place covering allergy documentation on the EPR?

- 1. Yes**
- 2. No**
- 3. Don't know/ Unsure**

Q14 If yes to Question 13, does this guideline/SOP include documentation for allergens below? (Select all that relevant)

- 1. Drugs**
- 2. Food**
- 3. Other non-drug substances (e.g. latex)**
- 4. Don't know/ Unsure**

Q15 Does your hospital have access to specialist allergy advice for paediatric patients?

- 1. Yes through regional centre**
- 2. No**

Q16 Does your hospital have access to specialist allergy advice for adult patients?

- 1. Yes through a regional centre**
- 2. No**

Allergy incidents

Incident response not available in the format requested.

Section 3: Patient Safety Incidents

In this section, we would like to gather some information about patient safety incidents related to allergies in hospital, for example patients who have been administered penicillin antibiotics when they have a penicillin

allergy. We would like information on up to 10 cases each for both drug allergy and food or non-drug allergy incidents, prioritised by severity of harm, followed by the most recent incidents.

Gather the following information for your incident reporting system before answering the following questions:

1. Drug allergy incidents- Allergen, Age, Level of harm

2. Food and other non-drug allergy incidents- Allergen, Age, Reactions, If reported as serious incident, Level of harm, Is the allergen previously documented in patients' note, Is the the allergen correctly documented on EPR

This information is not recorded

3. Common causes identified on food and other non-drug allergy incidents reported.

This information is not recorded

We recognize that many Trusts may not have a specific category for food and other non-drug allergies in their incident reporting portals. However, we have identified a few related categories that are often associated with the documentation of these incidents, including:

1. Food allergens incidents:

- Insufficient help with eating and drinking**
- All other medication incidents (errors with prescribing, administration, follow-up etc.)**

This information is not recorded

2. Medication allergen incidents:

- All other medication incidents (errors with prescribing, administration, follow-up etc.)**
- Other injury/accident**
- Inadequate or inappropriate medical care**

Response

STHK		
Type = Adverse reaction	No Harm	Low Harm

when drug used as intended		
Hypersensitivity reaction	0	<5
Reaction to infusion	<5	6
Reaction to Contrast	<5	0

S&O			
Type = Adverse reaction	No Harm	Low Harm	Moderate
Administration by needle reaction		<5	
Reaction to Contrast	0	<5	
Reaction to infusion	0	5	<5
Reaction to fentanyl patch	0	<5	0

3. Other search terms including- "anaphylaxis", "allergy", "food allergy", "allergic", "urticaria", "urticarial", "hives", "angioedema", "anaphylactic", "non-drug allergy", "adrenaline", "wheezing", "stridor", "EpiPen", "antihistamine"

Based on the above search criteria by calendar year:

STHK	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
None	43	59	58	76	80	59	69	38	53	53	50	53
Low	8	15	10	15	13	8	9	6	9	18	28	25
Moderate	<5	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0
Ungraded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	<5

S&O	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Near Miss	10	16	13	13	9	14	8	8	<5	8	5
No harm caused	25	30	30	35	28	26	32	20	30	39	32
Low harm	<5	6	6	7	7	<5	9	<5	12	14	11
Moderate	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	0	0	0	<5	0	0
Death - Unrelated	<5	5	0	0	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	0	<5

Response By Site

STHK		
	No Harm	Low Harm
Reaction to contrast	<5	<5
Anaphylactic reaction	<5	<5
Food allergy reaction	<5	
Near miss	<5	
Abx/Shellfish/nut allergy	<5	
Magnesium infusion	<5	
IV allergy	<5	

S&O			
	No Harm	Low Harm	Death – unrelated to incident
Missing Allergy Band	<5		
Swelling triggering stridor event	<5		
Latex allergy	<5		
Anaphylactic reaction		<5	
Abx/Shellfish/nut allergy	<5		
Reaction to contrast	<5		
Soap allergy	<5		
Bolus/adrenaline			<5
Blood test for allergy – not recorded in notes	<5		

4. Consider other search terms for non-drug allergy incidents including "Latex", "Chlorhexidine", "Povidone iodine", "Macrogol", "PEG-polyethylene glycol", "Polysorbate 20", "Polysorbate 80", "Mannitol", "EDTA", "Tromatamol", "Trismatamol", "Metacresol", "Arginine"

Latex* *Chlorhexidine* *Povidone iodine* *Macrogol* *PEG-polyethylene glycol* *Polysorbate 20* *Polysorbate 80* *Mannitol* *EDTA* *Tromatamol* *Trismatamol* *Metacresol* *Arginine

Based on the above search criteria by calendar year:

STHK	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
None	11	18	18	16	21	22	18	7	8	9	24	16	
Low	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	0	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	
Ungraded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<5	

S&O	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Near Miss	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	
No harm caused	<5	10	<5	9	7	6	<5	<5	6	<5	<5	
Low harm	0	0	0	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	

Based on the above search criteria with the last 10 cases:

STHK			
	No Harm	Low Harm	Moderate
Citrate and EDTA	<5	<5	
Latex allergy	<5	0	0
Chlorhexidine allergy	<5	0	0
Histamine reaction		0	<5
Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.2%	<5	0	0
Allergies not listed on notes	<5	0	0

S&O			
	No Harm	Low Harm	Near Miss
No medication list	<5	0	0
Latex allergy	<5	0	<5
Incorrect drug chosen in drop down	<5	0	0
Allergy to Hibi scrub	<5	0	0

Q17 Does the incident reporting platform have a specific category for recording food or other non-drug allergy incidents?

1. Yes
2. No

Q18 In the last 10 years, has your Trust recorded any incidents where a patient was administered a food, drug, or other substance (e.g., latex) they were known to be allergic to?

This information is not recorded

Q19 If yes to question 18, how many such incidents have been reported in the last 10 years? [Numerical Response]

1. <5, please specify
2. 5 - 9, please specify
3. 10 - 19, please specify
4. ≥ 20, please specify
5. Don't know

This information is not recorded

Q20 If yes to question 18, please indicate the number of incidents for each category: [Numerical Response]

1. Drug allergy incidents
2. Food allergy incidents (This isn't recorded on Datix)
3. Incidents to other allergic substances (Not specified on Datix)
4. Don't know/ unaware (not applicable)

This information is not recorded

Q21 Considering the start date of your EPR system, how many years' worth of incident data have you been able to search for this survey?

Ideally, up to 10 years. (e.g. 2014 - 2024)

ten years provided Datix system was started in 2011

Q22 For reported DRUG ALLERGY incidents, what are the drugs involved, age group (≤ 17 or > 17 years), and level of harm (no harm, low harm, moderate harm, severe harm or death), listing up to 10 cases prioritized by severity of harm, followed by the most recent incidents?

Please indicate the total cases below if more than 10 cases were reported.

STHK	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
None	5	7	10	6	17	13	6	9	24	40	34	28
Low	5	16	10	20	16	9	14	11	30	34	59	69
Moderate	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0

S&O	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Near Miss	<5	10	5	<5	<5	5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	
No harm caused	18	9	13	14	9	9	7	7	17	9	8	
Low harm	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	5	9	<5	7	7	9	
Moderate	0	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<5	

Q23 For reported FOOD and OTHER NON-DRUG ALLERGY incidents, what are the allergens involved, age (confirm age via clinical record if required), reactions, if serious incident reported and level of harm (no harm, low harm, moderate harm, severe harm or death), listing up to 10 cases prioritized by severity of harm, followed by the most recent incidents?

This information is not recorded

Please indicate the total cases below if more than 10 cases were reported.

Example: Case 1 (Peanut, 3yo, anaphylaxis, serious incident reported,

moderate harm).

1. Case 1 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
2. Case 2 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
3. Case 3 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
4. Case 4 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
5. Case 5 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
6. Case 6 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
7. Case 7 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
8. Case 8 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
9. Case 9 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
10. Case 10 (allergen, age, reaction, serious incident reported, level of harm)
11. If more than 10 cases report, please indicate the total number of cases below.
12. No food allergy OR other non-drug allergy incidents reported

This information is not recorded

Q24 For FOOD AND OTHER NON-DRUG ALLERGY incidents, how many of the incidents was the allergen clearly documented in patients notes/correspondence prior to the incident? Please insert the number of cases involved in each category. (e.g. 0 - 100)

1. Food allergies documented correctly, please specify:
2. Food allergies not documented, please specify:
3. Non-drug allergies documented correctly, please specify
4. Non-drug allergies not documented, please specify
5. The food/ non-drug allergens were not previously known

This information is not recorded

Q25 For FOOD AND OTHER NON-DRUG ALLERGY incidents, how many of the incidents was the allergen correctly documented on the relevant field in EPR prior to incident (Cerner / Epic / Other)? Please insert the number of cases involved in each category. (e.g. 0 - 100)

1. Food allergies documented correctly, please specify:
2. Food allergies not documented, please specify
3. Non-drug allergies documented correctly, please specify
4. Non-drug allergies not documented, please specify
5. The food/ non-drug allergens were not previously known

N/A

Q26 What were the causes identified in the food or other non-drug incidents? (Multiple answers allowed)

1. Allergy not recorded in EPR
2. Allergy recorded but not flagged/alerted
3. Staff did not check EPR
4. Incorrect substance administered due to similar names/packaging
5. System error or failure
6. Other (Please Specify)
7. Unsure/ Don't know

N/A.

<5 Mark up

Due to the low number of patients which is less than five for the period, the Trust is withholding the actual number under section 40 – Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act due to likelihood of identification of the individual(s).

If the requestor or any other member of the general public can, on the balance of probabilities, identify individuals by cross-referencing the anonymised data with other information that was available to them, then the information is personal data and exempt from disclosure under the Act.