Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 25 January 2024   FOI Ref No: 23427

Requested Information

Your use of Physician Associates.

1) How many Physician Associates are currently employed by your organisation?

2) Please provide copies of any policies regarding physician associates in your organisation. For example, policies regarding the scope of practice, clinical procedures, governance, supervision and appraisal processes for physician associates.

3) Please provide details of any patient safety incidents (reported via Datix or other internal patient safety reporting systems) where the clinician involved was a Physician Associate. Where possible, please include a breakdown of these incidents by year, severity and categorisation (e.g., department, nature of the incident, patient harm, outcome, organisational response etc).

Response

1) There are seven Physician Associates currently employed by our organisation.

2) There is no Trust Policy specifically regarding physician associates at RCHT in HR.

The scope of practice is articulated in NHS Employer guidelines articulated in Agenda for Change Job Profiles that are available publicly on the following website link. Clinical Practioners - Physician Associate.pdf (nhsemployers.org). The Physicians Associate will have a Trust job description outlining their duties.
The responsibility for appraisal of Agenda For Change staff lie with the nominated line manager. The Trust Policy for Appraisals is outlined publicly on the Trust internet site Appraisal and Pay Progression Policy (cornwall.nhs.uk).

3) We are unable to provide this information as our reporting system Datix does not have the mechanism for recording the job description of individuals involved. To attempt to track this information down would require greater than 18 hours which would exceed the time period permitted for an FOIA request.

Information Governance
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