

17 December 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 18884

I refer to your email of 26 November requesting information in respect of blood glucose test strips.

I can confirm on behalf of Great Yarmouth and Waveney, North Norfolk, South Norfolk, Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

1. Do the CCGs have a formulary for Blood Glucose Test Strips? If so please can you provide the formulary or link to the formulary?
If you cannot provide a link, can you advise which products are included under what guidance?

[Link to cost comparison](#)

<https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=f1WRce-wkUE%3d&portalid=1>

and formulary

<https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Chi7OahN8IE%3d&tabid=856&portalid=1>

2. Please advise the responsible Medicines Optimisation contact for the above formulary and their contact details. [Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG Medicines Optimisation team – Michael Dennis](#)
<https://www.greatyarmouthandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/page.asp?fIdArea=3&fIdMenu=1&fIdSubMenu=0&fIdKey=377>

[AGEM CSU who provide services to South Norfolk – Francoise Price](#)
francoise.price@nhs.net

3. Please advise the dates when the above formulary was last reviewed and when it is due for next review? [Cost comparison 18.10.18 Formulary October 2018](#). [Review date for both is October 2020](#). This may be sooner if there are any significant changes to either national guidance or prices.

4. Please provide a list of all Blood Glucose Test Strip rebate schemes that are currently in place in South Norfolk CCG.
[GluxoRx](#)
5. For each of the Blood Glucose Test Strip rebate schemes currently in place please provide the following information where possible:
 - The name of the blood glucose test strip included in the rebate scheme.
[GlucoRx Nexus](#)
 - The start and, if applicable, end date of the rebate scheme.
[01/04/18-01/04/19](#)
 - Is the rebate scheme based on an agreed volume?
[No - The CCGs do not enter in to schemes with agreed volumes.](#)
 - Is the rebate scheme based on a percentage of blood glucose test strips prescribed?
[No - The CCGs do not enter in to schemes with conditions such as this.](#)
 - Is there any other condition to the rebate scheme?
[No](#)
What is the value of the discount applied to the NHS Drug Tariff price of the blood glucose strips?
[This information is exempt by virtue of section under S43 of FOIA, as disclosure would prejudice commercial interests; see the public interest test below.](#)

Public Interest Test

Section 43 is a prejudice based exemption and, as such, we are required to assess both the prejudice test and the public interest test in withholding this information against that of its release.

When assessing the prejudice test, we need to demonstrate that there would be an impact on the commercial interests of the CCGs or upon a third party should this information be released. It is our opinion that to provide the value of the discount applied would impact on the commercial interests of both the third party suppliers and the CCGs themselves.

We are of the opinion that third party suppliers would be disadvantaged as the discount applied would be made available. Suppliers compete with one another in a competitive environment and for contracts not just related to the CCGs, to provide the value of this discount could allow rival companies to undercut our current suppliers as they would be able to work out the costs of current suppliers from the information provided. The CCGs could also be disadvantaged commercially as the release of this information could dissuade suppliers from bidding for services and would therefore impact upon the CCGs' ability to obtain best value for money in future procurement exercises.

As a result, it is in the CCGs' opinion that this sufficiently demonstrates the prejudice which would be caused through disclosure.

We are also required to conduct the public interest test, which assesses whether releasing the information would be in the public interest despite the prejudice test being satisfied. It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. We recognise that there is a general public interest in are being open and transparent. However, we do not believe that this public interest is served in disclosure for the damage that would be caused as outlined above.

Therefore, we consider that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above.

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM CSU
FOI Team, Room 18
Scarsdale
Newbold Road
Chesterfield
S41 7PF

Email agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, email casework@ico.org.uk

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Yours faithfully

Philip Humphreys

FOI Manager, Arden & GEM CSU

**On behalf of
Great Yarmouth and Waveney,
North Norfolk, South Norfolk
Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs**