FOI 3022

Date 29/04/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

1. What is the average number of patients per day requiring thickened drinks across all wards?

We do not collect this data.

1. What is the average no of thickened drinks provided per patient, per day?

We do not collect this data.

1. What are the core options of thickened drinks offered to patients both hot and cold e.g. coffee, tea, orange squash?

Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juices, squash and milk.

1. Which brand(s) of thickener do you use for thickening fluids?

Nutilis Clear.

1. Is thickener bought directly from the manufacturer or via another source e.g. NHS supply chain?

Purchased through a third party wholesaler.

1. What is the quantity (KG) of thickener purchased in the last 12 months?

498 x 175g Nutilis Clear.

1. What was the cost of thickener purchased in the last 12 months?

This information is commercial in confidence and we are unable to provide confidential pricing information without permission from the contracted supplier.

1. Are purchase of thickeners contracted in any way i.e. by way of a framework or minimum contract period and/or minimum amount required to be purchased? If yes, please provide details.

They form part of the enteral feeding contract but there are no minimum amounts required for purchasing.

1. If contracted, is any agreement in place for rebates or for a certain amount of product to be supplied free of charge? If yes, please provide details.

The contract is currently out to tender.

1. If contracted, can you advise the current contract term and when this is due to expire?

The contract is currently out to tender.

1. On discharge, do you recommend the same brand you use on inpatient wards to patients for use at home, or give them multiple suggestions for brands of thickener they could use?

Generally the same product recommendations are made but the decision is made by the GP and may be influenced by recommendations made by the community speech and language therapy team.

1. On discharge, would patients generally be prescribed thickener, or would they be expected to buy this (no prescription)?

It should be prescribed.

1. If prescribed, do you know a rough % of patients who would be eligible for free prescriptions?

This is not information we have access to as a secondary care provider.

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 Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests for internal review should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to: dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk. This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

 Yours sincerely,

 *FOI Officer*

 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust