

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_251_21

You asked:

CONTEXT: As NHS resources were so limited during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is known that certain people were prioritised over others for in-patient treatment. It is also known that certain people and groups were subject to blanket and/or non consensual 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information;

1) What were the criteria for the prioritisation of treatment? (e.g. age, chronic health conditions, neurodevelopmental disorders, etc.)

All decisions about patient care and treatment were made collaboratively on the basis of the best interests of the individual, including DNR decisions.

2) What hospitals made the choice to prioritise certain groups over others?

Not applicable, please see response to question 1.

3) Were patients informed that there was prioritisation for certain groups?

3a) If so, were those who were to be NOT a priority informed that they were as such?

3c) How many people, irrespective of whether they went on to receive treatment and/or recover, were to be of lesser priority than others?

3d) How many people, who were seen as a lesser priority for treatment, died?

Not applicable, please see response to question 1.

4) Were there blanket DNR orders for patients in certain groups? (e.g. those with chronic health conditions, those with neurodevelopmental disorders, the elderly etc.)

There were no blanket orders given.

4a) What groups were subject to these blanket DNR orders?

4b) If so, were these groups informed of the hospital's choice to place them under DNR orders?

4c) Did any of these patients consent to the use of DNR orders on them?

4d) How many people subject to these DNR orders went on to die?

Not applicable, please see response to question 4.