

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF24-054

Request:

1. Information about your Trust's current obesity and weight management strategies (we are looking for examples of the tier of delivery through the NHS Tiered Care Weight Management Pathway and specific services encapsulated within this)
2. Details of staff training to deliver these strategies
3. Details of any current training for clinical staff in the area of weight discrimination, weight stigma, weight bias and/or obesity awareness,
4. The number of complaints made to the Trust between 01 January 2014 and 31 December 2023 where weight discrimination, bias or stigma was mentioned
5. Any planned or current actions in response to the Health and Social Care Committee report on 'The Impact of Body Image of Mental and Physical Health'.

Response:

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested.

1. EKHUFT records all bariatric patients coming in through a bariatric register alerting system, the patient would be added to this register when they first come into hospital. If they are readmitted the team will get an alert, which helps them to support the ward with equipment, depending on the patient's needs.

With regards to weight management we do not tend to focus on weight reduction in the Acute Hospital as our patients tend to be clinically unwell and it is important for them to get sufficient calories, energy and protein to support their recovery. If we have any patients who want to lose weight following their acute episode of illness they can be referred and this would be identified on their discharge paperwork for their GP to action.

2. EKHUFT use a training needs analysis to identify who needs what training. With our manual handling Link assessor, they go through a training plan for all patients including bariatric patients. Staff have to complete competencies on how to use the equipment, this training can be completed via the company we use to hire equipment or by the manual handling training team.
3. Please see question two
4. There have been 24 complaints between 01 January 2014 and 31 December 2023 where weight discrimination, bias or stigma was mentioned.
5. We have now moved away from Standard Operating Procedures for managing a bariatrics-plus size patient to a policy which will go live in March 2024. This will consider all our patient's needs, mobility equipment, wards, etc.

(DATE OF RESPONSE: 29 FEBRUARY 2024)