

Reference Number: FOI202223/149
From: Private Individual
Date: 21 July 2022
Subject: When did start referring patients and how many patients have been referred through the NHS discharge medicine service (DMS), a nationally commissioned service

Under the freedom of information act 2000, I am requesting the following information on the NHS discharge medicine service (DMS), which became a nationally commissioned service on 15 February 2021.

- Q1 When did your trust begin referring patients through the NHS DMS?
- A1 The Trust formerly used Transfer of Care Around Medicines (TCAM) which then became DMS in 2021, at which point the Trust commenced using DMS.
- Q2 How many patients has your trust referred to community pharmacies through the DMS between 15 February 2021 and 14 July 2022?
- a. How many patients has your trust discharged in total within this timeframe?
- A2 Information not held – This data is taken from NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) who are currently unable to provide the information due to technical issues. Their statement is as follows:
- “NHSBSA are having technical issues extracting NHS DMS data. They are working to resolve this and once sorted we will share data from March (baseline) and April to June (quarter 1). Apologies for the delay; we understand that this is causing issues for NHS Trusts and we are hoping NHSBSA colleagues will have this resolved very soon.”
- Q3 According to national guidance for operating the DMS, trusts are responsible for developing their own eligibility criteria for patients referred through the service that meet “local population needs” (see page 13). Please could you supply a copy of your trust’s eligibility criteria for referring patients through the DMS?
- A3 Any patient that has a regular retail chemist has this logged on their electronic patient record. This notifies the chemist on both admission and discharge. **All retail pharmacies** get an electronic copy of our discharge i.e. there is no “criteria” we use.