

Our Ref: 005/2020
January 2020

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am a Policy Researcher at Release, a national charity that specialises in drugs and drugs law. Additionally, we provide free and confidential advice to the public and to professionals.

I am writing to request information on what your guidelines are on managing and treating drug or opiate dependent patients in an acute setting, with specific focus on pain management of said patients. Would we be able to obtain a copy of this?

While the pain specialists are aware of the principles of how pain is managed (continuing baseline opioid and supplementing with multimodal analgesia and local anaesthesia where appropriate), there is no specific local guidance.

The PCF gives good, well-rounded advice (PCF6, p.753).

Although quite old now, the [BPS guidance](#) on pain and substance misuse gives some practical advice in certain situations (Section 5) including acute pain (which I suspect the query relates to, although this detail is missing).

All of the Trust's pharmacy guidelines can be found here: <https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/services/pharmacy/medicines-formulary/>