The Dudley Group NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters
Russells Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/011047

With reference to your FOI request that was received on 11/01/2012 in connection with 'Emergency Department Information

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed

Further information about your rights is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Manager
Room 34a, First Floor, Esk House, Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, DY1 2HQ
Email: FOI@dgh.nhs.uk

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Please find the responses to your request below:

1. I am looking for the A&E Clinical indicators (as per DOH) for the last quarter 2011, as well as monthly. I cannot find it on the website.

Dudley Group has not yet published any data in relation to the A&E Clinical Quality Indicators on its website, as it is felt that publishing experimental data would not be of benefit to any of its stakeholders.
The concern that the Dudley Group FT has is that these A&E Clinical Quality indicators have not been ratified by the NHS via the NHS Information Standards Board (ISB) and therefore are not robust enough to be reported against.
The usual course of action when new measures and dataset are introduced is that they will go through a piloting and appraisal process via the NHS ISB (an independent body) which should result in the publication of an Information Standards Notification (ISN) which then informs Trusts throughout England of the changes that are required to its systems and data collection processes. Without an ISN there is no assurance that published performance data is in any way comparable across Trusts in England.
As yet an ISN has not been released for these measures, which is why they are still deemed as being only 'experimental' by the NHS Information Centre, and which is why they have been removed from the NHS Operating Framework and the Monitor Compliance Framework.
As a consequence Dudley Group feels that it is not appropriate to publish data on measures that are not supported by an ISN. It is worth noting that Dudley Group is doing all it can to support the ISN publication process for these measures and once the ISN is published then we will not hesitate to publish the data. Our understanding is that the ISB are still awaiting a full set of documentation before the appraisal process for the ISN can begin.
The current measure which is used within the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12 and Monitors Compliance Framework 2011/12 is the maximum 4 hour waiting time target, which was reintroduced at the expense of the A&E Quality Indicators. The Trust's performance against this measure for Q3 was 95.75% against a target of 95%.

2. What has been the medical locum expenditure for Emergency Department for last 6 months ?
The medical locum expenditure for Emergency Department for last 6 months (between July to December) was £64,124