



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-440

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 9th December 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 23rd October 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding surgical dyes. I apologise for the delay in responding.

On 24th October 2019 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

Q3- Can you clarify if this is the total number of procedures undertaken where a blue dye was used or the number of procedures where a blue dye could be used for example there are 5 procedures the trust can undertake which requires the use of a blue dye.

Q4- Can you clarify what you mean by "the health episode statistic (HES) code associated with each procedure", Also what do you mean by "which site has used the dyes", is that which hospital site or what part of the body? As within the NHS "site" is referred to as identify which part of the body

On 25th October 2019 you replied via email with the following:
Thank you for your reply.

To give clarity to the questions, please find further explanation below.

"Question 3:

Please could you provide information in respect to how many procedures require a blue dye, per annum?

Could you please supply data on the total number of procedures undertaken where a blue dye was used or the number of procedures where a blue dye could be used, along with a description of the procedure?

Question 4:

Please could you provide information in respect to which procedures require a blue dye, the volume used (in millilitres) per procedure, the health episode statistic (HES) code associated with each procedure, per annum, and which site has used the dye(s)?"

Each procedure will have a health episode statistic (HES) code associated with in order to allow the comparisons of procedures nationally, is it possible to supply the HES code that would have been generated when a procedure using a blue dye was carried out? With regards to my terminology of "which site", I was referring to which NHS site/geographical location i.e. UHNM Stoke, or County Hospital, Stafford.

We replied on the same day as we were still in need of clarification:

Q3, – the response does not clarify what information you want. Is it the total number of procedures undertaken where a blue dye was used OR the number of procedures where a blue dye could be used?

Q4- Unfortunately the response still does not answer what the health episode statistic (HES) code is, as previously mentioned HES is a data warehouse containing details of all admissions, outpatient appointments and A and E attendances at NHS hospitals in England. HES are a standalone system managed by NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/hospital-episode-statistics>.

If this code is used to compare other procedures nationally then you will need to contact HES for the code. This maybe something that is generated by HES when they receive the data from trusts- please can you clarify further or advise if you wish to withdraw this question?

You replied via email with the following:

“Please see responses below with regards to your clarification on my questions:

For question 3 could you please supply the answer in regards to the total number of procedures undertaken where a blue dye was used?

Could you please remove the HES data request from question 4? Question 4 will now be as shown below.

Question 4:

Please could you provide information in respect to which procedures require a blue dye, the volume used (in millilitres) per procedure, per annum, and which site has used the dye(s)?”

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 Please could I kindly request information in respect to the volume (in millilitres) per annum of surgical dyes that you purchase? Please state from the list below which dye the Trust uses, and which site uses which dye(s).

- **Blue Marker,**
- **Patent Blue/Sulfan Blue,**
- **Indigo Carmine,**
- **Methylene Blue (methylthionium chloride),**
- **Indocyanine Green**
- **Toluidine Blue**

A1 Please see below:

	2017	2018	2019
Blue Marker,	71x1mL	79x1mL	60x1mL
Indigo Carmine,	0	0	0
Methylene Blue	16x10mL	0	18x10mL

	2017	2018	2019
(methylthioninium chloride)			
Indocyanine Green	4x5mL	4x5mL	13x5mL
Toluidine Blue	0	0	0

Q2 Please could you provide information on which surgical specialties use a surgical dye; and from the list above which dye do they prefer?

A2 Please see below.

<u>Surgical Specialities using Surgical Dye:</u>	<u>Favoured Surgical Dye by Usage:</u>
General Adult Intensive Care Units	Blue Marker
General Surgery	Blue Marker
Orthoptics	Indocyanine Green
Theatres	Blue Marker

Q3 Please could you provide information in respect to how many procedures require a blue dye, per annum?

Amended Q3 as per your clarification above:

Could you please supply the answer in regards to the total number of procedures undertaken where a blue dye was used?

A3 Information is not held as we do not code the use of “dyes” we are unable to identify which procedures used a dye.

Q4 Please could you provide information in respect to which procedures require a blue dye, the volume used (in millilitres) per procedure, the health episode statistic (HES) code associated with each procedure, per annum, and which site has used the dye(s)?

Amended Q4 as per your clarification above:

Please could you provide information in respect to which procedures require a blue dye, the volume used (in millilitres) per procedure, per annum, and which site has used the dye(s)?”

A4 As answer 3

Q5 Please could you provide information in respect to which purchasing route the prefer dye is obtained?

With regards to time frames, could you please supply date for 2017, 2018 and 2019 year to date?

A5 Blue Marker obtained from AAH

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

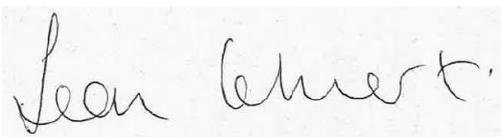
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

