

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-736

Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 21st April 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 30th March 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding AV Fistula.

On our acknowledgment to your request we added the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in questions 2, 3 and 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just questions 1 and 5 we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 you kindly advise of the following information in relation to arteriovenous fistula operations for dialysis patients.

1. How many arteriovenous (AV) fistulas in dialysis patients were repaired in 2019?

Number of repaired AV fistulas:

If exact number not known, please estimate <10 / 10-50 / >50:

A1 To ascertain this information we have used the OPCS coding: L743 Attention to arteriovenous shunt with the following ICD10 coding: Z992 Dependence on renal dialysis.

For 2019 UHNM completed 123 repairs undertaken on patients undergoing dialysis.

Q2 Please indicate the number of patients per indications for AV fistula revision!

- **No of patients (AV-Fistula Thrombosis):**
- **No of patients (AV-Fistula Stenosis):**
- **No of patients (AV-Fistula Re-stenosis):**

A2 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

Q3 How were AV fistula repairs done (please indicate percentages)?

- **Minimally invasive AV-Fistula surgery (in%):**
- **Open AV-Fistula surgery (in %):**
- **Percutaneous AV-Fistula intervention with uncoated balloons (in %):**
- **Percutaneous AV-Fistula intervention with drug coated balloons (in %):**
- **Other products:**
- **Not known (in %):**

A3 As answer 2

Q4 Which products have been used for AV-Fistula repair? (Non-coated balloon, drug coated balloon, stent, others, please indicate?)

A4 As answer 2

Q5 Which procedure codes were used for reimbursement?

A5 Please see below:

In relation to Q1

L743 Attention to arteriovenous shunt

Plus one of the below codes to show the type of repair

- Y262 Plastic repair of organ NOC (not otherwise classified)
- Y263 Stapling of organ NOC
- Y265 Other attention to repair of organ NOC
- Y268 Other specified other repair of organ NOC

- Y269 Unspecified other repair of organ NOC

In relation to Q2
L743 Attention to arteriovenous shunt

Plus one of the below codes to show the revision

- Y713 Revisional operations NOC
- Y716 Second revisional operation NOC
- Y717 Third or greater revisional operation NOC

In relation to Q3
No clinical coding to identify

*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.

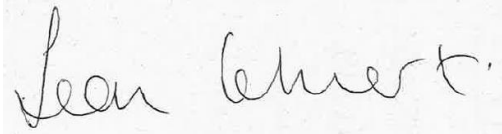
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager