



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-620

Royal Stoke University Hospital  
Data, Security and Protection  
Newcastle Road  
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Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 4th December 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Survey to Gynaecological Clinicians

**Q1 In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) we would like to understand your use and aftercare of the B. Braun Aesculap Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary and we would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:**

**The B. Braun Aesculap Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary is used to relieve symptomatic prolapse of the Uterus where patients are either unwilling or unfit (chronic illness, old age) for surgery and the ring Pessary falls out. The Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary can be used as a stopgap, where surgery needs to be delayed or the patient requires limited relief. After initial fitting with a Medical Practitioner/ Gynaecologist, the maximum allowable time the Vaginal Pessary should be fitted without removal, for review and cleaning, is 3 months. After which the device should be cleaned and re-fitted.**

**Please would you respond to the following questions:**

**1. Name:**

A1 Jill Whitaker

**Please note the following response has been answered in-line with the following statement.**

We do not routinely use the Simpsons shelf pessary and haven't for over 10 years. All patients with Simpsons pessaries were changed to silicone-based alternatives such as Popy or Gellhorn due to the risk associated.

**Q2 Job Title:**

A2 Advanced Nurse Practitioner

**Q3 Hospital:**

- A3 University Hospitals of North Midlands
- Q4 Over the last two calendar years (Jan 23 – Nov 24) has your hospital/organisation experienced any failure of the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary after implanting that relate to the materials used?**
- A4 None
- Q5 Over the last two calendar years (Jan 23 – Nov 24) has your hospital/organisation experienced any Adverse Events that were not reported to the MHRA and what side effects or adverse events occurred?**
- A5 The Trust has not experienced any adverse events or side effects, over the last two calendar years (Jan 23 – Nov 24).
- Q6 For the population of patients that your hospital uses an implanted Vaginal Pessary, do you feel there are other devices available that performs the same tasks as the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary and which devices seem to have less adverse effects on this group of patients?**
- A6 The Trust advocate the use of silicone pessaries in all new patients. We do not offer Simpsons to patients.
- Q7 Are the ranges of sizes of the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary from 51mm – 101mm adequate for your patient population?**
- A7 We do not stock this pessary.
- Q8 Can you describe your experience of using the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary with your patients and would you recommend its use to other clinicians at other Hospital or wider audience?**
- A8 Due to the discomfort on insertion and removal and the greater risk of ulceration and fistula the Trust moved to silicone pessaries. Since doing this we have experienced greater compliance and patient satisfaction.

\*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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



**Leah Carlisle**  
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records  
Data Protection Officer