



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-152

Date: 18th September 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 29th July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding neurosurgical, spinal and craniotomy procedures

On our acknowledgment 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.

On 30th July 2020 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification: Which procedures you are classing as neurosurgical, spinal & craniotomy? It should also be noted the same procedure can be used to treat different conditions.

On the same day you replied via email with a spread sheet of all the OPCS codes and the following statement:

"I've attached a list of OPCS codes we're interested in for neurosurgical /cranial procedures - hopefully this will help. For spinal procedures it will be all except those used for pain relief /pain management. If you need anything further please let me know,"

On the same day we contacted you again via email as we still required clarification:

What you meant by, *"For spinal procedures it will be all except those used for pain relief /pain management"* we needed to know what you meant by, "all" of what? Every other OPCS code?

On 6th August you replied with: "the spinal procedures would be those other than epidural or spinal anaesthesia, so"

On 10th August 2020 we contacted you again as we required you to clarify further in order to give you a meaningful response, we asked:

Unfortunately in order to continue with your request we require clarification on the specific procedures, as the list you have supplied would require us to make an assumption on what you mean by neurosurgical, craniotomy and spinal as we do not group procedures into the grouping you are asking for information on.

On 11th August 2020 you replied via email with:

“Please can you confirm my understanding of your response - that the Trust is unable to supply procedural data by OPCS code as indicated on my attachment to your initial clarification email?”

On 13th August 2020 we replied via email

The clarification information that you sent is just a list of OPCS codes – as your request is split into “how many neurosurgical procedures, how many spinal procedures, how many cranioplasty procedures” we require you to tell us *which* procedures in your list make up those groupings as OPCS coding is not grouped into these classifications. If you are unable to provide this clarification then UHNM will not be able to answer questions 1-3.

On 26th August 2020 you replied via email with:

“If you can just supply the product demand data this will be sufficient,”

On 1st September 2020 we contacted you again as your clarification was insufficient, we stated: Thank you for your email below, but as previously stated:

The clarification information that you sent is just a list of OPCS codes – as your request is split into “how many neurosurgical procedures, how many spinal procedures, how many cranioplasty procedures” we require you to tell us which procedures in your list make up those groupings as OPCS coding is not grouped into these classifications. If you are unable to provide this clarification then UHNM will not be able to answer questions 1-3.

Therefore please be specific as to which procedures you are referring to.

On 10th September 2020 you replied via email with the following:

“Can you provide the data by OPCS procedure code - as listed?”

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 I am making a FOI request about the number of neurosurgical, spinal and craniotomy procedures on patients in the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 and total volume of aligned products purchased during the same as details below.

Please could you provide the following information?

1. The total number of neurosurgical procedures in the 12-month period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

A1 As per your clarification 10/09/20 please refer to the attached spread sheet- note:-
We are unable to provide some of the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5.

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Q2 What was the total number of spinal procedures in the 12-month period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, excusing those for pain relief/pain management?

A2 As answer 1.

Q3 What was the total number of cranioplasty procedures in the 12-month period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020?

A3 As answer 1.

Q4 The total volume of Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) sealants procured in the 12-month period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Examples of CSF sealants brands;

- Tisseel™ (Baxter)
- DuraSeal® (Integra)
- DuraSeal® Xact (Integra)
- Evicel™ (J&J)
- TachoSil® (J&J)
- Adherus® (Stryker)
- Adherus® Autospray ET (Stryker)
- TissuePatchDural™ (Tissumed)
- Liqoseal® (Polyganics, Distributed by Seven Healthcare Technologies)

A4 During the 12 month period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, 2497 sealant products were procured. These were Baxter products, Floseal, Coseal, Celstat and Hemopatch and Tissue patch from Tissumed.

Q5 The total volume of Dural products procured in the 12-month period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

- I. Dural Repair Products
- II. Dural Substitutes
- III. Dural Grafts

Examples of Dural Repair Products / Substitutes / Grafts brands:

- DuraGuard™ (Baxter)
- TissuDura™ (Baxter)
- Neuro-patch® (BBraun)
- Duraform™ (Integra)

- Duragen (Integra)
- Duragen® Plus (Integra)
- Duragen® Secure (Integra)
- Duragen® Suturable (Integra)
- Durepair™ (Medtronic)
- Duramatrix® (Stryker)
- Duramatrix-Onlay® (Stryker)
- Duramatrix® Suturable (Stryker)
- Duramatrix-Onlay® Plus (Stryker)

A5 In the period 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 we procured a quantity of 71 Dural products these were duraform from Integra.

Q6 The total volume of single-use bipolar forceps procured in the 12-month period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Examples of single-use bipolar forceps brands:

- Aesculap® Disposable Insulated bipolar forceps (BBraun)
- CODMAN® VersaTru™ (Integra)
- Adeor NXT™ (Judd Medical)
- K0Ag (Kogent, Distributed by Seven Healthcare Technologies)
- Spetzler-Malis® Disposable forceps (Stryker)

A6 In the period 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 we procured a quantity of 350 bipolar forceps single use these were from RB medical.

Q7 The total volume of cranioplasty implants procured in the 12-month period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Examples of Cranioplasty implants brands may include:

- MEDPOR (Stryker)
- PMMA (Stryker)
- PEEK (Stryker)
- TRUMATCH® CMF (Johnson & Johnson)
- OssDsign® Cranial (Ossdsign)
- MEDICAL-GRADE PEEK PSI (Cavendish Implants)
- TITANIUM PSI (Cavendish Implants)
- Evoshape cranial implant (Evonus)
- Osteomatch PEEK Patient-Specific Cranial Implants (OsteoMed)
- Laserimplants (Renishaw)
- HTR-PEKK Patient Matched cranial implant (Biomet)
- SKULLPT (3D-Side)
- Glace custom-made cranial implant (Skulle implants)
- IPS Implants® Cranium – (KLS Martin)

A7 In the period 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 we procured a quantity of four (4) cranioplasty implants these were Ossdsign.

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

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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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.

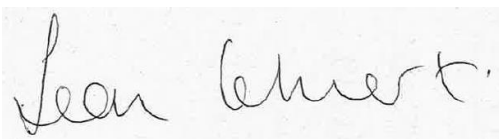
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

