



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-556

Date: 22nd February 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 3rd January 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding transvaginal ultrasounds

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 For what symptoms would a transvaginal ultrasound be indicated?

A1 We offer a transvaginal scan for all gynaecological ultrasound examinations with the exceptions of patients who have not had penetrative sex, patients, diminished capacity and those that decline

Q2 Are there any groups of people a transvaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on? If so, why would they not be indicated?

A2 We offer a transvaginal scan for all gynaecological ultrasound examinations.

A transvaginal scan would not be carried out on the following groups. Patients who have not had penetrative sex, diminished capacity and those that decline.

Q3 Does Trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out transvaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before? If it is not allowed, what is the reasoning behind no sexual contact being a contraindication for these scans?

A3 Our local historical policy states that we do not carry out this examination in patients that have not had Penetrative sex. As a Trust we are aware that carrying out the transvaginal scan in patients who have not had penetrative sex, the examination is more painful and causes higher risk of infection.

Q4 If transvaginal ultrasounds are not allowed in your Trust for the 'sexually inactive', what is the justification for this going against the British Medical Ultrasound Society's guidelines, which state: "The concept of virginity plays no part in the clinical decision making for a TVUS" and "if a patient has not had penetrative sex, they are still entitled to be offered, and to accept, a TVUS [transvaginal ultrasound] in the same way that cervical screening is offered to all eligible patients"?

[https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal Ultrasound Guidance Final With Front Cover MesUP8a.pdf](https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal%20Ultrasound%20Guidance%20Final%20With%20Front%20Cover%20MesUP8a.pdf)

- A4 Our local historical policy states that we do not carry out this examination in patients that have not had Penetrative sex. As a Trust we are aware that carrying out the transvaginal scan in patients who have not had penetrative sex, the examination is more painful and causes higher risk of infection.
- Q5 What does the Trust define as 'sexual activity'?**
- A5 Had previous penetrative sexual intercourse and the hymen is no longer intact on a female
- Q6 Which members of staff in your Trust perform transvaginal ultrasounds?**
- A6 Sonographers, Consultants, Nurse Sonographers, Midwife Sonographers
- Q7 Have all of those staff members received diversity and inclusion training regarding their patient-facing roles? If so, please detail the nature of the course or programme and number of hours completed.**
- A7 All staff have Equality and Diversity training annually

*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.uhm.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,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records