

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-414

Date: 16th October 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in response to your email dated 24th September 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding management of sedated patients in your hospital intensive care (ICU) unit(s).

Q1 We are sending this enquiry regarding the management of sedated patients in your hospital intensive care (ICU) unit(s). We would welcome responses to the following questions:

1. What is the percentage of beds occupied by mechanically ventilated patients, for the period April 2023-April 2024?

A1 53.89%

Q2 What is the percentage of patients sedated with propofol when mechanically ventilated, for the period April 2023-April 2024?

A2 The majority of the sedated patients receive propofol, but a minority receive midazolam in place of/in addition to propofol.

Q3 How frequently do you assess sedation level in a mechanically ventilated patient (average number of times per day)? (please can you provide a copy of your trust protocol)

A3 Sedation level is assessed 4 hourly as a minimum [x6 per day], for all mechanically ventilated patients as per our departmental Pain, Agitation, Delirium and Sleep guidelines [see attached]

A recent departmental sedation management audit confirmed 100% compliance with this standard, with more frequent assessments completed as required.

Q4 How frequently do you undertake sedation hold in a mechanically ventilated patient (average number of times per day)?

A4 As per our departmental Pain, Agitation, Delirium and Sleep guidelines [see attached], sedation holds are completed daily for all patients not requiring deep sedation.

Any variation/contraindications to this standard is documented in the medical notes.

Q5 Do you have a recommended daily sedation target / sedation depth target / optimum sedation target for mechanically ventilated patient?

A5 Yes, target sedation levels are managed as per our departmental Pain, Agitation, Delirium and Sleep guidelines [see attached].

Q6 If yes, what measures are put in place to meet this target?

A6 Target sedation levels are prescribed and documented daily, based upon the clinical condition of the patient.

Our departmental Pain, Agitation, Delirium and Sleep guidelines [see attached] provide clear guidance on the titration of sedation to achieve the target sedation score.

Target sedation is reviewed as part of the ward round process and adjusted as required with any variations to the guideline clearly documented.

Q7 What is the incidence of delirium in mechanically ventilated patients?

A7 Information not held, however: There are challenges in accessing this information within our current documentation system. We have recently completed a Delirium audit, but analysis is yet to be completed to provide this data, at this time.

Q8 How many times has the ICU reached critical capacity and elective activity has been impacted and had to be cancelled, for the period April 2023-April 2024?

A8 The working premise being that the separation of the 2 units (an SSCU where we accommodate up to 14 patients coming for elective surgery. This is separate from our Critical Care Unit where we look after the level 3 patients.) affords the avoidance of cancellations due to surge in Level 3 demand.

Q9 What is the percentage / number of registered ICU nurse(s) from bank/agency on any one shift?

A9 We have not used agency since March 24, I can confirm bank is variable and is made up of UHNM critical care staff, past and present.
Bank % for week commencing 2/10/24 is 8.5%

Q10 What is the average monthly spend on bank / agency ICU registered nurse(s), for the period April 2023-April 2024?

A10 The average monthly spend for the 13 months based on the dates below, using the actual spend from the ledger:

Nurse Bank	£127,085
Nurse Agency	£17,994

*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.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle

Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer