



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-270

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 15th August 2019

Tel: 01782 676474
Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8th August 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding lumbar puncture. (Previous reference 577-1819)

On 7th December 2018 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on which Trust you wanted information for, University Hospital of North Staffordshire or University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust?

On the same day you replied via email the following:
"Apologies I meant University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust"

On 18th January 2019 we contacted you as we required clarification on whether you mean spinal needles for epidurals etc.?

On 8th August 2019 you replied with the following:

"Apologies this email must have escaped myself, we were awaiting your response and were unaware of this hurdle.

We have emailed Trusts nationally, we mean spinal needles for lumbar punctures, it will be hard for yourselves to identify from the order unless clearly specified whether they are epidural or lumbar puncture needles.

Most Trusts have provided us with the procurement orders for all spinal needles and we have decoded accordingly".

On the same day we advised you via email that as we had not had a response within the two month period whilst waiting for clarification we had closed your original request and issued you with a new reference = 270-1920.

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 We are undertaking a project that aims to assess the impact of the 'Atraumatic lumbar puncture needle' campaign.

In order to complete these endeavour we were hoping to review procurement orders, nationally, for purchasing traumatic and atraumatic lumbar puncture needles.

We were be grateful if this information were to be provided for University Hospital of North Staffordshire as part of a freedom of information request

Therefore, if you would be so gracious we request, procurement orders for (a):

- **Atraumatic lumbar puncture needles (Spinal needles with introducers), annually over the periods 2008-2018**
- **Traumatic lumbar puncture needles (spinal needles), over the same periods.**

A1 Please see attached spread sheets. Information not held for information prior to 2015

Q2 **Additionally, may we request hospital episode statistics (HES) for the number of (b)?**

- **Epidural blood patch procedures, annually over the 2008-2018**
- **Post- lumbar puncture headaches, over the same time period**

A2 Please see below: information prior to 2011 is not held.
Blood Patch Procedures

Year	Site		Total
	RSUH	County	
2011	8	-	8
2012	24	-	24
2013	14	-	14
2014	36	-	36
2015	25	1	26
2016	17	0	17
2017	19	0	19
2018	33	0	33
	176	1	177

Post-Lumbar Headaches

Year	Site		Total
	RSUH	County	
2011	8	-	8
2012	19	-	19
2013	16	-	16
2014	15	1	16
2015	18	2	20
2016	13	4	17
2017	12	1	13
2018	21	3	24
	122	11	133

*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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance