

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-692

12 October 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

1. Does your Trust currently have both an inpatient (day-case) pathway and an outpatient pathway for hysteroscopy?

Yes.

2. Currently, roughly what percentage of your Trust's hysteroscopies are done with an anaesthetist

a) diagnostic?

b) operative (e.g. polypectomy, myomectomy, endometrial ablation)?

Our systems do not record whether a procedure is carried out with an anaesthetist. Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

3. What is the current approximate waiting time in weeks for a patient who asks for a general anaesthetic, spinal anaesthetic or IV sedation with analgesia for hysteroscopy

a) under the 2 week wait as an urgent referral for suspected womb cancer?

b) not under the 2 week wait?

Our systems do not identify from the waiting list data, patients with suspected womb cancer. Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

4. Has your Trust adopted, or is your Trust adopting the NHS Getting It Right First Time (Maternity & Gynaecology Report) targets of

a) 90% diagnostic hysteroscopies to be done in outpatients?

b) 50% operative hysteroscopies to be done in outpatients?

Yes, we do try to do as many hysteroscopy procedures (whether diagnostic or operative) as a day case, in line with GiRFT recommendations. This year to the end of July the rate is 86% as outpatients for both diagnostic and operative - please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

5. May I have a copy of the full range of pain scores obtained by your Trust in the BSGE 2019 outpatient hysteroscopy benchmarking survey?

There were 79 patients that took part in this survey; they were asked to score their discomfort and pain levels between 0-10, 0 being low and 10 being high:

| Level of pain and discomfort | Number of patients |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0-5 | 34 |
| 6-10 | 45 |

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore, please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

6. Is entonox or pentrox routinely available to all your outpatient hysteroscopy patients?

There is Entonox in the outpatient's department, however, this is not routinely offered; Pentrox will be made available in the future, not currently available, Pharmacy is organizing to be stocked. local anaesthetic is available for every patient if required. We do not use sedation.

7. Are local anaesthetic paracervical blocks routinely available in outpatients?

Yes

8. Please may I see any audits of hysteroscopic procedures during the last 5 years?

Please see the attached documents.

9. Are pain scores taken at all your outpatient hysteroscopy clinics?

Yes

10. Does your Trust have a Procedural Sedation Analgesia clinic for 'minor gynae' including hysteroscopy?

No

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust