

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 21-016

28 January 2021

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

I would like to know the following information regarding the use of swabs (surgical gauze swabs) that are used in obstetrics (birth packs, suture kits etc) and open surgeries such as laparotomies and incidents where swabs have been accidentally left within a patient.

1. Within the last 3 years, have there been any incidents recorded where a gauze swab was retained in the body cavity of a patient?

None

2a. If yes, was compensation paid to the patient(s)?

b. What was the total value of compensation paid to the patient(s)?

Not applicable

3. With regards to purchasing, how many procedure packs and swabs packs were purchased in the last complete financial year? Please indicate in the table below if the data supplied relates to individual packs or carton quantities. If carton quantities (the number of boxes of product ordered) are provided, please state the number of packs supplied per carton.

Product Type Number of packs purchased* Additional information re: number of packs per carton

Birth packs (standard delivery packs containing gauze swabs and other supplies)

Suture packs (e.g. used to repair vaginal tears containing gauze swabs and other supplies)

We do not have specific information on this but for Women's and Children's divisions we bought 495,804 swab gauze packs, 2040 Suture Packs and 10 laparotomy Packs.

4. Regarding brands and suppliers, which brands of product are being used and who is supplying them?

Product Type Brands used Supplied by

Birth packs (standard delivery packs containing gauze swabs and other supplies)

Suture packs (e.g. used to repair vaginal tears containing gauze swabs and other supplies)

Laparotomy packs

Swab packs (packs of 5 swabs used in surgery to pack open wounds, absorb blood etc).

Majority of packs are supplied by NHS Supply Chain, main brands are Vygon, Unisurge, Kimal and Rociale

Laparotomy packs Lawmed Ltd

Swab packs (packs of 5 swabs used in surgery to pack open wounds, absorb blood etc).

Purple Surgical

5. Are any of the following swab safety products purchased for used in surgery? These products are safety products designed to help clinicians count swabs in and out of the body.

- **SwabSafe™ (Central Medical Supplies)**
- **Surgicount™ (Stryker)**
- **Situate™ (Medtronic)**

Yes - Swabsafe

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:

Director of Corporate Governance
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