

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 22-227**

17 May 2022

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 hold some of the information you are requesting

**I am writing today to request a freedom of Information in regard to the following questions for the Year:**

- **2020**
- **2021**
- **2022**

- **Can Clinical Manager/Administrative personnel refuse a patient treatment/surgery under any reason? And who makes a decision for denying treatment/surgery?**

The decision to go ahead with a particular therapy is shared between clinicians and patient/family/carers. Clinicians cannot be obliged to deliver a treatment they do not think is of value (e.g. futile resuscitation for example), but would not refuse a patient's essential intervention .

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment/surgery for refusing to do a PCR test?**

The Trust would not refuse a patient's essential intervention on the grounds of no PCR, LFT, or vaccination – but would instead work with the patient to determine the right approach that did the best for patient, plus protected the staff and other patients.

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not doing a PCR test?**

The Trust is unaware of a situation when this has occurred. Generally the approach might delay treatment because of the potential risk to staff and other patients. A patients might be isolated in a single room or a greater level of PPE requirement for staff providing care to this patient.

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment or surgery for refusing to do a LFT test?**

The Trust is unaware of a situation when this has occurred. Generally the approach might delay treatment because of the potential risk to staff and other patients. A patients might be

isolated in a single room or a greater level of PPE requirement for staff providing care to this patient.

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not doing a LFT test?**

The Trust is unaware of a situation when this has occurred.

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment/surgery for refusing to wear a face mask?**

The Trust is unaware of a situation when this has occurred.

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not wearing a face mask?**

The Trust is unaware of a situation when this has occurred.

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment or surgery for not wearing a visor?**

The Trust is unaware of a situation when this has occurred.

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not wearing a visor?**

The Trust is unaware of a situation when this has occurred.

- **What is the difference between a face mask and a visor?**

A face mask covers the nose and mouth so that if the individual coughs or sneezes there is containment of the small droplets that are forcibly ejected into the atmosphere by the individual. A visor is generally a clear plastic device which is less effective at containment than a face mask, as the sides have much wider openings at the side and bottom of the device. It does not offer potential as a filter as a face mask does.

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient denial for a chaperone? And if so, why? What is the protocol for access for a chaperone?**

If a patient refuses an offered chaperone, for a sensitive examination/intervention, then the clinician can refuse to examine/intervene the patient for their own protection.

- **If a patient is staying in hospital, can the hospital deny visitation for this patient? If so, why? What is the protocol for a patient to seek visitation rights?**

The guidance for visiting has changed at different stages of the pandemic and is associated with community prevalence and indeed numbers of COVID-19 positive patients in the hospital. If the ward are restricted for IPC reasons then there may be a situation when visiting is suspended as a safety measure to protect visitors as much as other patients. However generally there are exceptions on a case-by-case basis, often for reasons of compassion, when visiting is permitted noting the risks to those involved.

- **What are the protocols whereby the patient is refused treatment or surgery, who makes these decisions? And what happens next?**

The decision to go ahead with a particular therapy is shared between clinicians and patient/family/carers. Clinicians cannot be obliged to deliver a treatment they do not think is of

value (e.g. futile resuscitation for example), but would not refuse a patient's essential intervention.

**• Every time a patient is referred to your hospital, how much money does the hospital receive for that patient?**

The Trust no longer functions in a PBR system so we don't get funded for individual patients.

**The questions above should include all University Bristol NHS Trust Hospitals. Would you also send the policies and procedures you have in place for face covering, visor, PCR testing, Lateral Flow Testing? I will look forward to hearing from you soon.**

The Trust does not hold policies for these things beyond the national NHSE, UKHSA and government guidance that we have followed throughout.

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**