

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-512

12 July 2024

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. How many Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) have been recorded at Bristol Royal Infirmary over the past three years?

- 2022

- 2023

- 2024 (to May 31)

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply **Section 21** of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on NHS England website on the following link:

[Healthcare associated infections \(HCAI\): guidance, data and analysis - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-associated-infections-hcai)

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information if it is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

2. What are the most common types of HAIs reported in Bristol Royal Infirmary (i.e., surgical site infections, MRSA, HPV etc.)?

Clostridium Difficile is the most common type of healthcare-associated infection.

3. Please provide data on the mortality rate associated with HAIs in Bristol Royal Infirmary over the past three years?

- 2022

- 2023

- 2024 (to May 31)

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply **Section 21** of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on NHS England website on the following link:

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information if it is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

4. On average, do patients who contract HAIs spend more, less or the same length of time in hospital compared to those who don't?

- More time
- Less time
- The same amount of time

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. How much has the treatment of HAIs cost Bristol Royal Infirmary over the past three years?

- 2022
- 2023
- 2024 (to May 31)

We do not hold this information – our finance system cannot break this down specific to HAIs.

6. What infection control policies and procedures are currently in place to prevent HAIs?

The requirements of a registered health care provider are set out within the IPC code of practice (updated December 2022). We are compliant with these requirements. Therefore we use a range of different IPC policies and standard operating procedures and interventions to reduce HCAI risk. They are based on national guidance such as the NHSE National IPC manual. We have an overarching governance structure linked to an MDT approach to infection management which includes training / learning opportunities, audit, policies, SOP's. This has IPC nurses, lab teams, ward clinical teams, medical microbiology, data management.

7. How often are these policies and procedures reviewed and updated at Bristol Royal Infirmary (please provide dates of the last review/update period)?

There are numerous documents that relate to policies for IPC and SOP's. They are within date and have all been reviewed in the last 12 months, linked to some ongoing development work with the integrated care board.

8. Are there any specific protocols in place to deal with an outbreak of HAIs at Bristol Royal Infirmary?

Yes we have a Trust Outbreak policy and guidance which is managed by the IPC team and medical microbiology as the situation evolves in the clinical setting.

9. How is staff hygiene maintained to reduce the risk of HAIs?

We undertake monthly hand hygiene audits in clinical areas managed using the AMaT audit system with input from each department to submit the required data. This is then scrutinised by sisters in wards, matrons and oversight of the trust is monitored through the Trust operational IPC group.

10. How is visitor hygiene maintained to reduce the risk of HAIs?

We do not specifically monitor visitor hand hygiene. There is hand gel available in all clinical areas and hand wash sinks that visitors can access and there is clear guidance in each clinical area about when hygiene is required.

11. How is patient hygiene maintained to reduce the risk of HAIs?

We do not specifically monitor patient hand hygiene. There is hand gel available in all clinical areas and hand wash sinks that visitors can access and there is clear guidance in each clinical area about when hygiene is required. Hand hygiene wipes are offer to patients at the meal service during the day.

12. Are there specific cleaning and disinfection procedures for patient rooms, medical equipment, and common areas?

Yes. There is clear operational standards for cleaning clinical areas (patient rooms and communal areas) in the hospital and is linked to the NHSE National Cleaning Standards for Healthcare 2021. UBHW are compliant with these standards, based on best practice guidance. There is a cleaning responsibilities framework and guidance around decontamination of medical equipment which varies based on the scenario that it has been used in ranging from cleaning, decontamination or sterilisation as the use of the medical equipment is far reaching from a ward to a surgical procedure.

13. Have any new technologies or practices have been implemented to reduce the rates of HAIs at Bristol Royal Infirmary over the past three years?

No

14. Are there any plans to explore or introduce new technologies or practices at Bristol Royal Infirmary to reduce the rates of HAIs over the next three years?

Not currently

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