

21st April 2021

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Please provide under the FOI act, the figures for each of the last 5 years (please provide data for each calendar year data 2015-2020)

Please provide the following figures per calendar year:

- 1. How many live births occurred in your organisation (please break this down to premature and term babies)**

Please see below for the number of live premature and term births within East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust for the last 5 years:

Calendar year	Term Babies	Premature Babies
2016	3042	196
2017	2841	218
2018	2883	222
2019	2782	211
2020	2680	179

- 2. How many of these live births had cord clamping as being recorded at being at or after one minute? (please break this down to premature and term babies)**

The Trust does not centrally record the time of cord clamping, this is only recorded in the patients' notes. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of medical records.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

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3. Please provide the numbers where cord clamping occurred before one minute (please break this down to premature and term babies)

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

4. How many times this was not documented (please break this down to premature and term babies)

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

5. Please provide any audits in the last 5 years on cord clamping times.

There has been no cord clamping clinical audits recorded within the past 5 years.

6. Is it mandatory to record the cord clamping time on any of your systems?

No.

Further to our response of 29th March 2021, we subsequently received the following request from yourself and our reply is detailed below:

Thank you for your reply, to make sure it is under the cost limit:

1. Please select a number of notes at random for the past 12 months. Please explain how you chose the notes at random.

Please tell me if the baby was term (over 37 weeks) or premature and if the cord -clamping time was:

1. At 60 seconds or more
2. Less than 60 seconds
3. Or not recorded

Please do this for the maximum number of patients under the allowed cost implication.

The maternity database E3 was accessed by the person conducting the audit. Rather than choosing a small sample of notes, all births for 2020 were reviewed and 20 patients were randomly selected for review by the auditor. Electronic health records relating to the birth event were then reviewed to determine whether cord clamping was undertaken and if so, the duration noted, i.e. at 60 seconds or more, less than 60 seconds or not recorded, please see table below:

	TERM	PRE TERM
1. At 60 seconds or more	6	1
2. Less than 60 seconds	3	0
3. Or not recorded	10	0

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to Lynette Wells, Director of Corporate Affairs, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (lynette.wells2@nhs.net) quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net