

FOI REF: 21/160

14th April 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500
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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:

The timeframe of the data required in the following questionnaire should be one full year with an end date during 2019 (pre-COVID).

Clarification was sought asking you to confirm the time period you would like the information for, i.e. financial year 2018/19 or the calendar year 1st January – 31st December 2019 and confirmation was received that you require the calendar year 2019.

Would you please answer the following for any Dental General Anaesthetic (DGA) list you deliver:

- 1. Please confirm name, type of provider (NHS trust or CDS) and your Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, or Integrated Care service (if known).**

The Special Care Dental Service, part of the Community Dental Service within East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, has a general anaesthetic pathway to provide general dentistry under general anaesthetic (GA) for paediatric and special care adult patients who cannot have treatment any other way.

- 2. What sort of lists do you provide? We want to know if they are**

Extraction only
Comprehensive care only

Both extraction only and comprehensive care can be provided.

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Clarification was also sought with regard to extraction only and comprehensive cases and confirmation was received that you require separate extractions from comprehensive care, otherwise, total number.

a. Please describe the approximate frequency of each per month

In the year 2019, GA access was on a Monday, Thursday and alternate Tuesdays.

b. What is the age range permitted on each type of list?

On the adult list there is no defined upper age limit as such decisions are based on other factors, for example medical history.

On the paediatric list the range is 2 - 16 years.

Young people 16-18 years with additional needs are also treated.

c. What is the criteria for each list you provide eg purely due to special needs, or due to age/quantity of treatment/lack of co-operation etc

For the adult list it is because they have additional needs that cannot be managed in the community clinics.

For the paediatric lists, it is either due to lack of co-operation due to the young age, large amount of treatment, type of treatment namely multiple extractions, as well as additional needs such as autism.

3. If you provide dental care under GA via any other method eg extraction case at the end of an adult list, we would be like you to briefly describe these as well.

In 2019 GA sessions were sometimes planned to have a paediatric case before a short adult case to utilise the time. Currently the sessions are being utilised differently and separately.

4. What is the approximate number of children seen in 1 year across all the DGA lists you deliver (end date in 2019).

309 children were treated in 2019.

5. Who plans each type of GA list you provide (eg Paediatric Specialist, Paediatric Consultant, Special Needs Specialist, Senior Dental officer etc.)

Senior Dental Officers (SDO) are involved in the GA pathway work-up, one of the SDO's is a Specialist in Special Care Dentistry, one SDO has a Paediatric Masters but not currently a registered specialist.

Decision making and planning also takes place within a wider multi- disciplinary team lead by a Consultant Anaesthetist.

6. Who actually carries out each list (eg Paediatric Specialist, Paediatric Consultant, Special Needs Specialist, Senior Dental officer etc.)

The dental operator is a Senior Dental Officer one of which is a registered Specialist in Special Care Dentistry.

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

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