

FOI REF: 22/548

23rd November 2022

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:

Ambulatory Cardiac Monitoring

- 1. Can you confirm which modalities the hospital has at its disposal for ambulatory cardiac monitoring ie how many Holter Monitors does the hospital own or Zio Patch etc?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust owns 160 Cardiac Holter devices, combined for 2 acute hospitals within the organisation.

- 2. In the financial year 2020/2021 how many referrals from primary care were received for cardiac rhythm monitoring?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record this data. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of approximately 2247 patient records which we estimate would take much longer than the 18 hours the Act allows for each question submitted. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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.

We can advise that 2247 patients received ambulatory heart monitoring in 2020/2021.

Cont.../

- 3. Can you provide the costs of each modality i.e. for Holter Monitoring, please provide the number of Holter Monitors, Zio patch etc at the Hospital, the purchase cost of each Holter Device, any costs associated with maintenance of the monitor such as, battery replacement, servicing etc.?**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice commercial interests of third parties. This is because release of the information could be detrimental to their competitive position in the market.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

We have concluded that information broken down to the level requested would cause harm to the Trust as this could lead to the market being distorted, thereby increasing our costs and not gaining best value for money.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

- 4. In the financial year 2020/2021 how many patients received ambulatory heart monitoring at 24h, 48h, 7days and 14days?**

2247 patients in total received ambulatory heart monitoring, of which approximately 30% are 24 hr and the rest are a mix of 48hr and 7-day monitors.

- 5. In the financial year 2020/2021, how many patients were monitored using each modality i.e. ECG, Holvers, Zio, Bardy etc?**

We do not hold this information.

- 6. In the financial year 2020/2021 what was the total yearly NHS cost per patient undergoing ambulatory heart monitoring?**

The Trust does not centrally record the cost per patient undergoing ambulatory heart monitoring. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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.

7. What is the average time from clinician receiving ECG data to patient prescribing?

Clarification was sought asking you to confirm what you mean by clinician receiving ECG data to patient prescribing and confirmation was received as follows:

The request would be the average time it takes to obtain the data after monitoring ends.

1 day.

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, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

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