

FOI REF: 22/763

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11th January 2023

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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:

1. For what symptoms would a transvaginal ultrasound be indicated?

Any suspected Gynaecological pathology or pregnancy complication where a TVS is indicated.

2. Are there any groups of people a transvaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on? If so, why would they not be indicated?

In patients who decline or do not have capacity to consent for a TV scan.

3. Does trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out transvaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before? If it is not allowed, what is the reasoning behind no sexual contact being a contraindication for these scans?

Doing a TVS is based on individual clinical indications. There is no Trust policy that says you cannot do a TVS on someone that has never been sexually active before.

4. If transvaginal ultrasounds are not allowed in your trust for the 'sexually inactive', what is the justification for this going against the British Medical Ultrasound Society's guidelines, which state: "The concept of virginity plays no part in the clinical decision making for a TVUS" and "if a patient has not had penetrative sex, they are still entitled to be offered, and to accept, a TVUS [transvaginal ultrasound] in the same way that cervical screening is offered to all eligible patients"?

https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal_Ultrasound_Guidance_Final_With_Front_Cover_MesUP8a.pdf

There is no Trust policy that says someone who is not sexually active cannot have a TVS. It is individualised after discussion with the patient.

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5. What does the Trust define as ‘sexual activity’?

There is no formal Trust definition of this.

6. Which members of staff in your trust perform transvaginal ultrasounds?

Ultrasonographers, radiologists and Gynaecologists.

7. Have all of those staff members received diversity and inclusion training regarding their patient-facing roles? If so, please detail the nature of the course or programme and number of hours completed.

Yes, Equality and diversity mandatory training.

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
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