

FOI REF: 23/004

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)

6<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## 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:

**As a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I'd be grateful if you could provide the following information about the provision of bowel care for adults.**

**Q1. Does the Trust have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?**

(a) Yes

(b) No, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust follows the RCN Guidance.

**Q2. Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your Trust in August 2018?**

(a) Yes

(b) No

(c) No bowel assessment and management policy in place

**Q3. If admitted to the Trust, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal of faeces?**

(a) Yes, if clinically required.

(b) No

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- Q4. If admitted to the Trust, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital rectal stimulation?**
- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- Q5. If admitted to the Trust, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Trans anal irrigation?**
- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- Q6. Do you have ward-based staff skilled in supporting patients with neurogenic bowel care interventions, including the digital removal of faeces?**
- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- Q7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?**
- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- Q8. Does the Trust have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with the bowel care element of the patient's care?**
- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- Q9. Does the Trust have an appropriate clinical leader in place (such as a Continence Manager) to manage the overall delivery of bowel care interventions to patients?**
- (a) Yes, we have a bowel dysfunction team – Consultant lead and Nurse Specialist – for the elective/non-emergency pathway.
- (b) No

**Q10. What are the contact details for this clinical leader (i.e. name, job title, telephone number and email address)?**

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Lead for Pelvic Floor Service

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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](mailto: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 faithfully

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)  
Corporate Governance Manager  
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