

FOI REF: 23/186

17th April 2023

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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request answers to the following questions in relation to H.Pylori testing in hospitals throughout your Trust please.

- 1. How do you test for H. Pylori infection during upper GI endoscopies? Please specify what tests you use, eg, Culture Biopsy (Pathology), Urease.**

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust use Rapid Urease Test.](#)

- 2. How many H. Pylori tests are performed in a typical month?**

[Approximately 50 tests are performed in a typical month.](#)

- 3. Who decides to purchase H. Pylori tests?**

[Endoscopists based on patient's presentation and also based on findings during procedure.](#)

- 4. Which H.Pylori test(s) do you use most? .**

[Biohit Helicobacter Pylori UFT 300.](#)

- 5. Why do you use these tests most?**

[Quick and reliable results.](#)

- 6. Where in the hospital is the test usually done, and by whom?**

[Endoscopy Unit by the Endoscopists or nurses.](#)

Cont.../

7. **What medication do you use to treat H. Pylori? Please give drug name and brand.**

Medication used to treat H. Pylori is Amoxicillin, Clarithromycin, Metronidazole and Lansoprazole. We do not use specific brands for these drugs.

8. **What is the typical cost per test? Please give an estimate for unbranded or laboratory own tests.**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested in respect of cost per test, 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 its commercial interests.

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 by providing the cost per test value could cause harm to the Trust as this could distort the market-place and therefore, result in the Trust not obtaining 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.

9. **Do you use a Urease test for H. Pylori? If not, what type of test do you use? Eg breath test, culture, etc.**

The Trust only use rapid urease test kits, used during procedure.

10. **If you use a Urease test for H. Pylori, what type of Urease H. Pylori test do you use? Please give drug name and brand**

Biohit Helicobacter Pylori UFT 300

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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