

FOI REF: 23/484

Eastbourne District General Hospital
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1st August 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) **Did your Trust alter or update its visitor policy in response to Covid-19, yes or no?**

Yes.

- a) **If yes, what changes were introduced?**

Visiting appointments, risk assessments, PPE as appropriate to area, virtual visiting, end of life care visiting guidance, comfort pebbles, crocheted hearts.

- b) **If yes, are any of those policies still in place?**

No, revised on 26.07.23.

- i) **If yes, which of those policies are still in place?**

Not applicable.

- 2) **Does the Trust currently have any visitation policies that:**

- a) **Would prevent a patient from receiving a visitor?**

No except for the first 24 hours post surgery to aid recovery.

- i) **If yes, in what wards or circumstances does this apply?**

Not applicable.

- ii) **If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?**

Not applicable.

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b) Set a restriction on the number of different people able to visit a patient during their stay

This is considered on an individualised basis but as a guide for a general adult in patient area it would be a maximum of 2.

i) If yes, in what wards or circumstances would the number of different people visiting a patient be restricted?

Adult in-patient areas/wards with many caveats to include end of life, and carer support.

ii) If yes, how many different people do these restrictions permit as visitors?

There is no restriction, the 2 patients at the bedside can be different.

iii) If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?

Yes.

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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