

22nd April 2024

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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:

I would be grateful for some information about iron (IV) infusions and iron extravasation. IV Iron extravasation occurs when the IV iron solution leaks (or infiltrates) outside of the cannula and the venous system into the surrounding tissue.

- 1) How many times has IV Iron been administered each year in the years 2013-2023 within the organisation? For clarity and by way of example, how many times in 2013 was administered (given intravenously) - the same for each of the years thereafter until 2023.**

YEAR	INTRAVENOUS INFUSION OF THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCE NEC
2013	164
2014	212
2015	252
2016	259
2017	295
2018	279
2019	358
2020	328
2021	424
2022	515
2023	688

Please note that there are no specific codes for iron infusion. Following NHSE guidance, iron infusions are coded under intravenous infusion of therapeutic substance procedure codes, however these codes are also used for other infusions. In order to provide meaningful information only admissions where the patient has a primary diagnosis within the first episode for iron deficiency and an intravenous infusion of therapeutic substance procedure code within the same hospital spell have been used to generate the activity figures above.

- 2) **How many iron extravasations have been reported within your organisation within the 10-year (complete years) period 2013-2023? For clarity, I am asking how many extravasations reports were made, involving iron infusions, between 2013-2023, complete years, January to December in each of those years. I am aware that there is no specific coding for Iron Extravasation. However, the incident forms for each year can be reviewed and if it does not include an IV iron infusion can be excluded.**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by searching "Iron" via the following link:

[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) Disclosure Log – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust \(esht.nhs.uk\)](https://esht.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-foi-disclosure-log)

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

- 3) **Are patients given any information leaflets about iron infusions prior to infusion? May I have a copy?**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by searching "Iron" via the following link:

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This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

- 4) **Do you have an iron infusion policy - May I kindly have a copy?**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by searching "Iron" via the following link:

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This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

To sum up. I am looking at a 10-year period (2013-2023). I am looking to discover how many times IV Iron is administered, how many times an extravasation injury occurs and lastly what information patients are given prior to the transfusion and what policies are in place.

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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net