

FOI REF: 24/495

8th August 2024

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:

Please could you provide me with information for each of the financial years 2023/24, 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20:

- How many hospital admissions (in-patient admissions) did you see in each year for allergic reactions and anaphylactic shock? (Does your trust combine the two or present them separately?)**

Allergic Reactions

F.Y.	Adm Any Age	Adm under 18
2019/20	107	45
2020/21	95	37
2021/22	96	45
2022/23	68	35
2023/24	66	19

Anaphylactic shock

F.Y.	Adm Any Age	Adm under 18
2019/20	44	8
2020/21	34	4
2021/22	47	9
2022/23	40	9
2023/24	53	14

Please note that the numbers provided represent a primary or secondary diagnosis at any point during the admission episode.

2. If possible, please provide a breakdown of how many of these cases were related to food?

Allergic reaction related to food

F.Y.	Adm Any Age	Adm under 18
2019/20	32	25
2020/21	36	24
2021/22	36	24
2022/23	29	22
2023/24	22	16

Anaphylactic shock related to food

F.Y.	Adm Any Age	Adm under 18
2019/20	11	6
2020/21	11	2
2021/22	12	6
2022/23	8	3
2023/24	13	8

3. How many of these cases in questions 1 and 2 related to children under 18?

This information is provided in the responses to questions 1 and 2.

4. What age was the youngest admission for the years stated above for an allergic reaction?

F.Y.	Min Age (years)	Min Age (months)
2019/20	0	1
2020/21	0	0
2021/22	0	1
2022/23	0	1
2023/24	0	1

In addition, can I please add the following questions in relation to the years listed above:

5. How many patients presented at A&E and were treated in the department and not admitted to hospital owing to allergic reactions / anaphylactic shock?

F.Y.	A&E Atts any age	A&E Atts under 18
2019/20	841	187
2020/21	650	121
2021/22	666	174
2022/23	557	154
2023/24	699	194

6. If possible, please provide a breakdown of how many of these cases were related to food?

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the cause for allergic reactions/ anaphylactic shock. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of individual patient notes which we estimate would take hundreds of hours due to the number of cases. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the above limit based on the estimate that the time taken to retrieve this information from each record on average being 5 minutes and there being 4243 records to check resulting in the region of 350 hours of work.

7. How many of these cases in questions 5 and 6 related to children under 18?
For Q5 we have indicated the number related to children under 18 within the table
We are unable to provide the data for Q6 so are not able to answer this question.

8. What age was the youngest patient treated?

F.Y.	Min Age (years)	Min Age (months)
2019/20	0	1
2020/21	0	2
2021/22	0	1
2022/23	0	1
2023/24	0	0

9. And for the years stated above how many patients were admitted to outpatient clinics for allergic reactions and anaphylactic shock?

It is not possible to provide this information, as outpatient attendances are not recorded by diagnosis.

10. If possible, please provide a breakdown of how many of these cases were related to food?

It is not possible to provide this information, as outpatient attendances are not recorded by diagnosis.

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