

FOI REF: 24/881

7th January 2025

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:

In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) we would like to understand your use and aftercare of the B. Braun Aesculap Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary and we would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

1) **Name:** According to our Freedom of Information Policy we only release the names of staff on Grade 8a and above. The post of Unit Matron is below a Grade 8a and therefore the details requested cannot be provided.

I can confirm however that our Assistant Director of Nursing is Mark Standen, and he has overall responsibility for the Unit Matron's roles.

2) **Job Title:** Unit Matron.

3) **Hospital:** Eastbourne District General Hospital and Conquest Hospital, Hastings.

4) **Over the last two calendar years (Jan 23 – Nov 24) has your hospital/organisation experienced any failure of the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary after implanting that relate to the materials used?**

No.

5) **Over the last two calendar years (Jan 23 – Nov 24) has your hospital/organisation experienced any Adverse Events that were not reported to the MHRA and what side effects or adverse events occurred?**

No.

Cont.../

- 6) **For the population of patients that your hospital uses an implanted Vaginal Pessary, do you feel there are other devices available that performs the same tasks as the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary and which devices seem to have less adverse effects on this group of patients?**

The right of access created by the Freedom of Information Act only applies to recorded information. The opinions requested above are not recorded and we are unable to divulge unrecorded opinions on these matters.

- 7) **Are the ranges of sizes of the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary from 51mm – 101mm adequate for your patient population?**

Yes.

- 8) **Can you describe your experience of using the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary with your patients and would you recommend its use to other clinicians at other Hospital or wider audience?**

The Simpson Shelf pessary is useful for patients with higher grade of prolapse. It is not soft and therefore the Trust is sometimes inclined to use other varieties of pessary that are softer and kinder inside the vagina.

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