

FOI REF: 25/119

6th March 2025

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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:

I am requesting information about the rate of sodium nitrite poisoning in your hospital trust.

- **For the past five years, up to and including 6 February 2025, I'd like to know the following:**

- 1) How many cases of sodium nitrite poisoning were there?**

Please break this down into cases of:

- a) Intentional poisoning (eg suicide).**
- b) Unintentional poisoning.**

[Please see the attached document – 'FOI 25-119 Sodium Nitrite Poisoning'.](#)

- 2) Of the cases of sodium nitrite poisoning, how many of them were administered Methylene Blue?**

[Please see the attached document – 'FOI 25-119 Sodium Nitrite Poisoning'.](#)

- 3) How many deaths were there where sodium nitrite poisoning was listed as the, or a, cause of death?**

Please break this down into how many deaths were caused by:

- a) Intentional poisoning (eg suicide).**
- b) Unintentional poisoning.**

[Please see the attached document – 'FOI 25-119 Sodium Nitrite Poisoning'.](#)

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4) Of the deaths caused by sodium nitrite poisoning, how many of them were administered Methylene Blue?

Please see the attached document – ‘FOI 25-119 Sodium Nitrite Poisoning’.

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

Admissions with Sodium Nitrite Poisoning 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2024

Discharge Year	Number of Admissions	Intentional	Unintentional	Administered Methylene Blue	Diagnosis Code	Diagnosis Description	Number of Deaths	Number of Deaths Administered Methylene Blue
2020	0	0	0	0	T506	POISONING BY ANTIDOTES AND CHELATING AGENTS, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	Not applicable
2021	0	0	0	0	T506	POISONING BY ANTIDOTES AND CHELATING AGENTS, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	Not applicable
2022	0	0	0	0	T506	POISONING BY ANTIDOTES AND CHELATING AGENTS, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	Not applicable
2023	0	0	0	0	T506	POISONING BY ANTIDOTES AND CHELATING AGENTS, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	Not applicable
2024	4	4	0	0	T506	POISONING BY ANTIDOTES AND CHELATING AGENTS, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	Not applicable