

FOI REF: 25/447a

19<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://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 looking into neonatal and paediatric critical care pharmacy staffing levels. Please could you share:**

1. **For each centre within your trust that provides neonatal care, please answer:**
  - a. **How many funded neonatal intensive care unit (ICU), neonatal high dependency unit (HDU) and special care baby unit (SCBU) cots are there?**  
  
[Please see attached excel document - Response FOI 25-447.](#)
  - b. **Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist practising in neonatology at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?**  
  
[Please see response for Q1a.](#)
  - c. **Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist with experience in the provision of parenteral nutrition, where necessary?**  
  
[Please see response for Q1a.](#)
  - d. **Do pharmacists working in neonatal care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?**  
  
[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

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- e. **How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) working in neonatal care are active independent prescribers?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

- f. **Does the centre have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

- g. **Does the centre have 5 day access to an aseptic and CIVA service where this is needed to provide bespoke parenteral nutrition or where there is substantial use of high risk intravenous medications?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

- h. **Does the centre provide a five day or seven day neonatal service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

- i. **How many clinical pharmacists work in neonatal care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

- ii. **How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the neonatal care (whole time equivalent)?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

2. **Does your trust have a paediatric critical care unit? For each paediatric critical care unit within your trust, please answer:**

- a. **How many funded paediatric level 2 and level 3 critical care beds are in the unit?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

- b. **Does the unit have access to a senior pharmacist practising in paediatric critical care, funded at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

- c. **Do pharmacists working in paediatric critical care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?**

[Please see response for Q1a.](#)

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- d. **How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) in the unit are active independent prescribers?**

Please see response for Q1a.

- e. **Does the unit have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?**

Please see response for Q1a.

- f. **Does the unit provide a five day or seven day service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.**

Please see response for Q1a.

- i. **How many clinical pharmacists work in paediatric critical care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?**

Please see response for Q1a.

- ii. **How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the unit (whole time equivalent)?**

Please see response for Q1a.

**Further to our response of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025, we subsequently received the following request from yourself, and our reply is detailed below:**

**Please could you share what AfC band the neonatal pharmacist works at?**

Neonatal pharmacists are a grade 8a.

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](mailto: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](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)

1.	For each centre within your trust that provides neonatal care, please answer:	
a.	How many funded neonatal intensive care unit (ICU), neonatal high dependency unit (HDU) and special care baby unit (SCBU) cots are there?	4 HDU 8 SCBU
b.	Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist practising in neonatology at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?	yes
c.	Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist with experience in the provision of parenteral nutrition, where necessary?	no
d.	Do pharmacists working in neonatal care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?	daily ward visit once weekly ward round
e.	How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) working in neonatal care are active independent prescribers?	0
f.	Does the centre have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?	yes
g.	Does the centre have 5 day access to an aseptic and CIVA service where this is needed to provide bespoke parenteral nutrition or where there is substantial use of high risk intravenous medications?	no
h.	Does the centre provide a five day or seven day neonatal service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.	5
i.	How many clinical pharmacists work in neonatal care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?	0.13
ii.	How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the neonatal care (whole time equivalent)?	0
2.	Does your trust have a paediatric critical care unit? For each paediatric critical care unit within your trust, please answer:	No
a.	How many funded paediatric level 2 and level 3 critical care beds are in the unit?	N/A
b.	Does the unit have access to a senior pharmacist practising in paediatric critical care, funded at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?	N/A
c.	Do pharmacists working in paediatric critical care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?	N/A
d.	How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) in the unit are active independent prescribers?	N/A
e.	Does the unit have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?	N/A
f.	Does the unit provide a five day or seven day service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.	N/A
i.	How many clinical pharmacists work in paediatric critical care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?	N/A
ii.	How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the unit (whole time equivalent)?	N/A