

FOI REF: 25/863

15th December 2025

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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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:

1. Does your trust follow EPIC guidance regarding PVC (peripheral venous cannulae) dwell time?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) aligns with the principles of EPIC3 but does not follow the guidance in full. While EPIC3 recommends removal based solely on clinical indication, ESHT applies defined maximum indwell times to support safe monitoring and operational consistency across the Trust.

The current maximum dwell times are:

- Non-ported integrated cannula: 168 hours
- Ported non-integrated cannula: 72 hours
- Deep access cannula: 29 days

Staff are trained to remove or replace cannulas earlier than the times indicated if clinically indicated, including phlebitis, infiltration/extravasation, infection risk, pain/tenderness, poor function, or dressing compromise. The Trust's EPR System is used to support monitoring; however, system limitations and compliance challenges mean that EPIC3 cannot be adopted in full at this time. Devices are clearly identified within the Trust's EPR System to support safe practice.

1a. If no, can you please confirm the recommended dwell time used in your trust for these devices.

As above, ESHT applies device-specific maximum indwell times of 168 hours, 72 hours, and 29 days respectively, alongside a practice model that emphasises vessel health preservation, Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT), and individualised patient assessment. This highlights if a peripheral device is appropriate for the plan of care on commencement and staff are expected to refer for advice if they run into issues or variation. This ensures governance and safe practice and reduces inappropriate vascular access devices being placed.

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Example - a patient is prescribed a vesicant or medication that may cause damage to veins over a long infusion time or period, the Multi Discipline Team should look to engage ANTT and place a long line instead of peripheral device to prevent complications or start with a peripheral device with a plan to exchange it before endothelial damage.

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