

16th October 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

For this request, a "vascular access team" means a dedicated team or service whose main role is to insert and/or manage vascular access devices, such as PICCs and midlines. It may be called a vascular access team, IV therapy team or PICC service.

1. Vascular access team

- a) Does your organisation have a vascular access team, as defined above?**

Yes.

(If No, please go to question 1d.)

- b) What is the team called?**

Vascular Access Team (VAT).

- c) Which directorate or department is it part of?**

Diagnostics, Anaesthetics and Surgery (DAS) division.

- d) If you do not have a team, who mainly inserts PICCs and midlines? Interventional radiology / Anaesthetics / Ward or specialist nurses / External provider / Other (please state)**

Not applicable. For context, the VAT inserts PICCs, midlines and brachial ports. It also accesses implanted ports and assesses and cannulates patients with difficult intravenous access (DIVA). Interventional Radiology inserts tunnelled devices such as Hickman lines and chest ports and supports the VAT with complex patients where the team cannot place a line.

2. Leadership

- a) Is there a designated lead for vascular access in your organisation?**

Yes.

b) If yes, what is their job title?

Vascular Access Lead Nurse Chartered Manager.

c) Which professional group does the lead belong to? Registered nurse / Radiographer / Operating department practitioner / Medical doctor / Other (please state)

Registered nurse.

3. Service and governance

a) If you have a vascular access team, when does it operate? Weekdays only / 7 days a week (daytime) / 24 hours, 7 days a week / Other (please state)

Other: 7 days a week, 08:00–18:00, across Conquest Hospital and Eastbourne District General Hospital. Community Virtual ward support.

b) Does your organisation record rates of catheter-related bloodstream infection (CRBSI) or central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI)?

Yes. Infection Prevention and Control records reportable CRBSI/CLABSI cases, and the Vascular Access Team supports the investigation of each case. The VAT covers care and maintenance of all vascular access devices. The exception is haemodialysis catheters, which are placed by the regional renal unit and returned there for dialysis-related management; the VAT provides only dressing care for these.

c) If recorded, are these rates reported to the Trust Board or one of its committees? Trust Board / Board committee (please name) / Not reported

Board committee: the Infection Prevention and Control Committee and the Quality and Safety Committee.

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm