East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital
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FOI REF: 26/766

20th November 2026

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:

I am looking into the current care pathway for patients with sickle cell disease living in East Sussex, with a particular interest in screening for sickle cell retinopathy. I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for the past five years:

1) The number of patients with confirmed sickle cell disease who are known to your organisation, excluding those with sickle cell trait alone.

Counts of the Numbers of Patients & the Numbers of Admissions of Patients with a Diagnosis of Sickle Cell Disease.

Financial Year	Numbers of Patients	Numbers of Admissions	Primary Diagnosis	Other Position
2021/22	40	84	26	58
2022/23	36	77	25	52
2023/24	47	106	29	77
2024/25	50	84	14	70
2025/26	51	77	16	61
Total	**224**	**428**	**110**	**318**

2) Whether routine ophthalmology screening for sickle cell retinopathy is recommended or provided for patients with sickle cell disease. If so, which service is responsible for arranging it and if there is any existing local pathway or protocol for referral to ophthalmology for sickle cell retinopathy screening.

Whilst East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust may see sickle cell patients, they are managed through tertiary centres, either Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

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