



Ref: FOI-099b-202425-Clinical Data and Processes- Gynaecology

Date: 13th June 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 7th June 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding our response on Gynaecological procedure.

You emailed the following.

Can you please confirm that (unlike most other trusts contacted with the same request), you do not keep any data on the number of hysteroscopies performed at your trust? This would be surprising as it would be needed at least for Various internal annual reporting efforts. Please could you confirm that you do not hold any of the information in section 1 a of the request so that we can confidently exclude your trust from data collation efforts.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Our response dated 5th June 2024

Q1 Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request information as detailed below from your Trust. We would appreciate all the information you can provide in answer to our questions. If you cannot complete any of the questions, please continue where possible with the remaining questions.

**Please provide the information in the prepared answer template attached.
If your Trust does not provide Hysteroscopies, please reply to this email stating this.**

Number of hysteroscopies

- 1. Please provide the total number of hysteroscopies performed at your Trust annually between 2013 and 2023 (inclusive). If annual breakdowns are not available, please provide the reporting period and numbers.**
 - a. Of those hysteroscopies, what is the total number per year (2013-2023 inclusive) conducted in an “outpatient setting” (not requiring overnight stay)?**
 - b. Of all hysteroscopies performed, how many were performed each year (2013-2023 inclusive) without General Anaesthetic?**
 - c. Of those performed without General Anaesthetic what is the number of hysteroscopies per year (2013-2023 inclusive) attempted that failed (the procedure was attempted but not completed, rather than a ‘did not attend/missed appointment’)**

d. What is the total number of 'did not attend/missed appointments' for all hysteroscopies per year (2013-2023 inclusive)?

Hysteroscopy information delivery

1. Do you routinely provide patient information about hysteroscopy in advance of the procedure? Y/N
2. For the following, please feel free to select multiple options if applicable:
 - a. How is this information provided to the patient (via post, via email, in the waiting room, etc.)?
 - b. When is this information provided (i.e. at the hysteroscopy appointment, sent with their appointment letter, etc?)
 - c. What format does the information come in (verbal, written, video, etc.,)?
 - d. Please provide us with a copy of the standard patient information leaflet or give a link to your Hysteroscopy information

A1 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in points a-d (Number of hysteroscopies) is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Hysteroscopy information delivery

1. Yes
2. For the following, please feel free to select multiple options if applicable:
 - a. It is via post, in the clinic consultation or waiting room.
 - b. At the first appointment when booked for a hysteroscopy or it is sent with their appointment letter.
 - c. verbal and written
 - d. attached.

Our amended response:

- a) Please provide the total number of hysteroscopies performed at your Trust annually between 2013 and 2023 (inclusive) – **using clinical coding Q189 – IP for 2013-2023 – 783. OP for 2013-2023 – 380**
- b) Of those hysteroscopies, what is the total number conducted in an outpatient setting? (not requiring an overnight stay) –Q189 code. **See above.**
- c) Of all hysteroscopies performed, how many were performed without General Anaesthetic? — **0 have the GA clinical coding applied to their record.**

- d) Of those performed without General Anaesthetic what is the number of hysteroscopies attempted that failed (the procedure was attempted but not completed, rather than a 'did not attend/missed appointment')? – **information not held.**
- e) What is the total number of 'did not attend/missed appointment' for all hysteroscopies? – **if we use the clinic code it wouldn't give us the correct number so we are unable to provide this – as our original answer above- section 12 exemption**

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

