

Our ref: FOI_1066
May 2013

A Brown
Request-157627-6e3c7812@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Brown

Thank you for your request for information made under provision of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find attached the Trust's response ref FOI_1066

1. Can patients obtain copies of their own scans and in what format are surviving archived scans stored ? – [The Trust is able to provide patients with a copy of their own scans. These are available in either DICOM or AVI/JPEG format.](#)
2. Does the Trust have a policy for ensuring that scans stored in one format will still be accessible and copyable when a new format becomes the working standard for storing echocardiograms ? - [All echo studies are archived in the internationally standardised DICOM format. Any new imaging system purchased by the dept will support this format.](#)
3. In particular, do you have the facility to extract and copy to a different format, from magnetic optical 5.25inch disks ? and in relation to this would you assist another hospital with such a need they found themselves without the capacity to read and make a copy of a scan from such a disk ? – [The Trust has a MO disk player which can re-install images from disk to computer. Once on a computer, the Trust is able to convert to AVI/JPEG.](#)
4. If a patient requested a copy of a scan presently archived in a format (for example magnetic optical disk) and if you could not meet their wish for a copy because of a lack of hardware or software, would you refuse the request or is there a protocol or mechanism you would use, such as a way of asking other hospitals or a solution known and integral to the NHS on a national basis whereby either a particular unit is available for dealing with such technical obstacles ? and if so please provide as much detail about such solutions as



possible. - The issue of not being able to meet the patients request of a copy of the echo study should not arise as the Trust can provide copies of recently performed echos that are centrally archived as well as those stored on MO disk.

5. Also, would you purchase disk reading software/hardware to ensure old format scans could be read and copied if a patient requested a copy of a surviving scan ? – No additional hardware or software is currently required to provide copies of echo images.
6. If a person, having obtained a copy of their own scan having had the examination within your own trust, wanted to ask questions about their echocardiogram, would the trust facilitate such queries by making a person with the appropriate skill, example cardiac technicians/other clinical staff with echocardiography training, available to answer such by appointment ? - Any queries that the patient may have regarding their echo should be made directly to their consultant who can discuss the findings in the context of that patients clinical setting –If a patient has a query about their Echo, they should make these directly to their consultant..
7. Can the Trust clarify the reasons why one would archive cardiac ultrasound, is this primarily for potential (albeit rare) need for clinical reevaluation, perhaps comparing cardiac structure/functional change over time/ potential medico legal reasons ? The author of this request has been advised that in practice cardiac ultrasound is summarised in a paper report which suffices for clinicians purposes and so wonders why archive ? - Archiving echo images is essential for serial assessment of cardiac pathology in individual patients. The British Society of Echocardiography states that an accredited dept should have a report database available for storing and retrieving echo studies.

Any commercial application or use of this information may be subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005. This means that if you wish to re-use the information provided for commercial purposes for any reason you must ask the Trust for permission to do so.

The Trust hopes this information is of help to you but if you are not satisfied with the Trust's response, or want to complain about the way in which your request has been handled, you are entitled to request an internal review. This request should be received by the Trust within two months of your receipt of the Trust's original response. To request an internal review, please contact the Corporate Services Director at corporate.affairs@papworth.nhs.uk or write to: Corporate Services Director, Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Papworth Everard, Cambridge CB23 3RE. Should your complaint not be upheld, you can appeal against this decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF (telephone number: 08456 30 60 60).



Yours sincerely

Sam Mayo
Freedom of Information and Document Control Officer

