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**QUALITY, SAFETY & COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT**

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Ref: FOIA Reference: 2013/311

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Ms K Tylko-Hill

Via email to: [request-185382-e52997cf@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-185382-e52997cf@whatdotheyknow.com)

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Dear Ms Tylko-Hill

**Request for Information (Freedom of Information Act 2000)**

I write further to your request for information received by the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust (the Trust) on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013 as detailed below. I apologise for the delay in this response being sent to you; this was due to us continuing to see what information is held by the Trust to enable us to provide you with the most helpful answer possible.

We can confirm that the Trust holds the majority of the information you have requested, but we feel your request in its entirety is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. This exemption applies when a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We feel this applies because if the information requested in questions 7 and 10 is recorded it will only be held in individual patient health records and therefore we will need to access all health records separately to extract any relevant information. We estimate this will take in excess of the 18 hours allowed for under the FOI Act.

However, under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to inform you that if your request is reduced to exclude questions 7 and 10 we can comply within the 18 hour timeframe.

In addition, although we cannot provide the anaesthesia type for patients as requested in question 7, we are able to provide the number of hysteroscopy/biopsy patients who were either day case or overnight patients and have done so below.

**Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) please would you supply the following information relating to your Trust's practice of:**

**OUTPATIENT HYSTEROSCOPY/BIOPSY – PAIN CONTROL AND PATIENT CHOICE**

**1. The current patient information leaflet**

Please find attached titled "eidohealthcare (question1).pdf"

**2. The current consent form**



Please find attached titled "HysteroscopyConsent (question 2).pdf"

### 3. The current surgical protocol

Document not held.

### 4. Does the leaflet advise the patient to ask her GP to prescribe gynae-specific painkillers to be taken BEFORE the procedure - Y/N?

The patient is informed in the clinic to visit their GP to obtain two 400mg Ibuprofen to be taken the evening prior to surgery and then again early in the morning with food, unless they are unable to take Ibuprofen due to medical reasons.

The patient will also receive a letter to remind them of the medication instructions.

### 5. What type and dose of painkillers does your Trust advise patients to take before the procedure?

Non-steroidal Ibuprofen.

### 6. Are ALL your hysteroscopy/biopsy patients given the following choices BEFORE the procedure is attempted:

- a) General Anaesthesia – Y/N?
- b) spinal anaesthesia – Y/N?
- c) conscious sedation – Y/N?

- a) No not all patients
- b) No not all patients
- c) No not all patients

### 7. For each of the last 3 financial years, how many of your hysteroscopy/biopsy patients had

- a) GA with overnight stay?
- b) GA day-case ?
- c) spinal anaesthesia?
- d) conscious sedation?
- e) local anaesthetic?
- f) no anaesthetic?

Exempt under section 12 as above, but we are able to provide the number of hysteroscopy/biopsy patients who were either day case or overnight patients:

2010/11: overnight = 51, day case = 730

2011/12: overnight = 54, day case = 734

2012/13: overnight = 53, day case = 388

### 8. What width hysteroscopes do you use? Rigid or flexible?

2.9mm and with sheath on 4.9mm 30 degree with a 5 french working channel.

### 9. For each of the last 3 financial years what % patients DNA outpatient hysteroscopy/biopsy?

2010/11: 0%

2011/12: 0%



2012/13: 5.5%

**10. For each of the last 3 financial years what % OP hysteroscopy/biopsy patients had a failed procedure that had to be repeated with epidural, GA or conscious sedation?**

Exempt under Section 12 as above.

**11. All audits of adverse events, e.g. infection, perforation during the last 3 financial years**

An audit of adverse events relating to hysteroscopies has not taken place.

**12. All surveys of patients' experiences during the last 3 financial years**

Please find a copy of a patient survey attached ("Hysteroscopy\_Patient\_Survey"), along with a presentation titled "Hysteroscopy pt survey results (question 12)" looking at previous survey results from 2011.

The Trust managed your request using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information in accordance with the requirements of Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to address your question(s) I consulted with Trust senior colleagues.

## **Response Queries (Freedom of Information Act 2000)**

In relation to the Freedom of Information Act, may I take this opportunity to inform you that the Trust is fully committed to the Act's philosophy of openness which allows the public and individuals to ensure that corporate information is managed and used efficiently in order to assist and support business functions and decision making with the aim of delivering high quality and appropriate healthcare.

If you have any queries related to the responses provided please in the first instance contact my office. Of course, you have a right to challenge this response using the Trust's internal FOIA complaints procedure. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner is an independent officer, appointed by the Crown and reports directly to Parliament. The Commissioner can request all the documentation relating to this request to ascertain whether the Trust's decision was fair and meets the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

The Trust welcomes feedback and continually strives to provide the best service. If you wish to make any comments about the FOI process at the Trust please return the attached questionnaire.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary Jackie Knowles on 01782 676474.

Yours sincerely



Helen Grocott  
**Information Governance Manager**