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Date 29th October 2019

Ken Reeves-Morris
Email: request-599373-3e98c7ab@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ken,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/19/08/45.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

What are your guidelines / policy on the use of vacuum mattress or Vacumat specifically does the length of time a patient is in the Vacuum mattress affect a patients circulation

The standard trauma patient should be immobilised using a scoop stretcher, head blocks and tape. They should have occipital padding and be secured for transport within a non-rigid vacuum mattress. Where travel times to hospital are in excess of 1 hour, it is reasonable to remove the scoop and place the patient in a rigid vacuum mattress in order to prevent soft tissue pressure injuries. We do not set an upper limit for the time a patient is transported within the vacuum mattress.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust