



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-201

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding pessary management.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because some of the information requested in question 2 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual 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*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just questions 1, partial question 2 and question 3 we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on the following:  
There are different types of pessaries depending on what they are been used for:-

- Pessaries to treat infection/administer medication
- Pessaries to support the vagina after pelvic organ prolapse (POP).
- Pessaries to induce labour
- Abortive Pessaries

Are you able to clarify if you are after any type of pessary or a specific use of a pessary?

On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 you replied via email the following:

*“Apologies that this was not sufficiently clear in our email.*

*I can confirm that the pessaries we require information for are support pessaries for pelvic organ prolapse”.*



As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Q1 Name of organisation**

A1 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM)

**Q2 See below**

| Question   | Number | Comments |
|--|--------|----------|
| How many new pessaries are inserted in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice in the last year?   |        |          |
| How many pessaries are changed in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice in the last year?  |        |          |
| What are the training requirements for a pessary practitioner in your Trust/ CCG/Practice?<br><i>Please share any related competency or training documents</i> |        |          |

A2 Please see below:

| Question   | Number | Comments   |
|--|--------|--|
| How many new pessaries are inserted in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice in the last year?   |        | Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above  |
| How many pessaries are changed in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice in the last year?  |        | Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above  |
| What are the training requirements for a pessary practitioner in your Trust/ CCG/Practice?<br><i>Please share any related competency or training documents</i> |        | Consultant gynaecologists with speciality in urogynaecology<br><br>Nurses:<br>All nurses who fit/change/remove pessaries<br>MSC – advanced nursing practice<br>Independent Prescribers qualification – prescribe oestrogen/estring/laxatives/antibiotics<br>Bscop Colposcopy accredited – to recognise abnormalities<br>Attend monthly urogynae MDT<br>Either urodynamics or pelvic scan qualification |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p>Regular pessary updates.</p> <p>We are unable to provide the related competency or training documents as to release this data as this would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. <i>Personal information</i>. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can disclose the training requirements- see above.</p> <p><i>This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is required.</i></p> |
|--|--|--|

**Q3 Who provides pessary care in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice? (See table below and tick all that apply)**

| <b>Designation:</b>  | <b>Please tick all that apply</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Consultant Urogynaecologist</b>                               |                                   |
| <b>Consultant Gynaecologist</b>                                  |                                   |
| <b>Urogynaecology Subspecialist Trainee</b>                      |                                   |
| <b>Junior Doctor</b>   |                                   |
| <b>Nurse Consultant</b>  |                                   |
| <b>Advanced Nurse Practitioner</b>                               |                                   |
| <b>Specialist Nurse</b>  |                                   |
| <b>Staff Nurse</b>   |                                   |
| <b>Assistant Practitioner</b>                                    |                                   |
| <b>Clinical Support Worker/Auxiliary Nurse/Nursing assistant</b> |                                   |
| <b>Physiotherapist</b>   |                                   |
| <b>Midwife</b>   |                                   |
| <b>Other (please specify)</b>                                    |                                   |

**A3 Please see below:**

| <b>Designation:</b>                  | <b>Please tick all that apply</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Consultant Urogynaecologist          | X                                 |
| Consultant Gynaecologist             | X                                 |
| Urogynaecology Subspecialist Trainee | X                                 |
| Junior Doctor                        |                                   |
| Nurse Consultant                     |                                   |
| Advanced Nurse Practitioner          | X                                 |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Specialist Nurse  |  |
| Staff Nurse   |  |
| Assistant Practitioner                                    |  |
| Clinical Support Worker/Auxiliary Nurse/Nursing assistant |  |
| Physiotherapist   |  |
| Midwife   |  |
| Other (please specify)                                    |  |

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

***UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.***

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

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

Yours,



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**

