

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF23-696

Request:

1. The type and number of tourniquets used for venepuncture and cannulation annually in your Hospital Trust, specifically whether you use single use (disposable) or reusable tourniquets and what material they are made out of.
2. If you use a mix of both, whether there is there any Trust policy for deciding which tourniquet to use.
3. When you first introduced single use tourniquets, if you do use them.
4. The cost per single use tourniquet/other type of tourniquet you use (or total annual cost)
5. The MRSA infection rates at your Trust, for three years either side of your introduction of single use tourniquets, referring to bloodstream infections (bacteremias) rather than surface carriage.
6. Whether you implemented any of the following infection control procedures within the same year as implementing single use tourniquets:
 - Stricter hand hygiene policy
 - Staff education programme on infection control procedures
 - Screening of patients for MRSA on admission to hospital
 - Isolation or decolonisation of patients who tested positive for MRSA

Response:

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested.

1. Please see attached spreadsheet named 'RF23-696 Response'
2. The Trust has adopted the principle to use single use as opposed to reusable.
3. We have used single use tourniquets for over 10 years
4. Section 43(2) (Commercial Interest) states that information is exempt if "its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)". This is a qualified exemption, which means that its application is subject to the public interest test set out in Section 2 of the Act.

Having applied this test, the Trust has concluded that the disclosure of information regarding the total spend for each tourniquet would reveal the associated unit price. As a result, this would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any individual or company the Trust currently, or may, interact with.

We have therefore, supplied the total spend for all tourniquets purchased.

5. EKHUFT have not had any associated MRSA bloodstream infections with tourniquet usage
6. EKHUFT have not introduced any additional IPC measures

(DATE OF RESPONSE: 06 DECEMBER 2023)