

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF24-149

Request:

Could you provide the information to show a list of which hospitals within your Trust have the relevant equipment to treat patients who refuse blood and blood components (such as Jehovah's Witnesses) in an emergency situation?

To give you an example, should a Jehovah's Witness be involved in an accident and they were bleeding out, which hospital(s) in your Trust would have the facilities available to treat them in accordance with their beliefs regarding no blood transfusions? This would be hospitals with a cell salvage machine at the very least on site, for example.

Response:

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

We have cell savers across the three acute sites in our theatres which are used routinely and also specifically should a Jehovah's Witness patient require it.

Each site has at least two machines:

- William Harvey Hospital x 2 cell salvage machines
- Kent & Canterbury Hospital x 3 cell salvage machines
- Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital x 2 cell salvage machines

The Trust also has a policy for both general patients who decline blood components and obstetric patients who decline blood components.

(DATE OF RESPONSE: 27 FEBRUARY 2024)