

FOI 2280

30 May 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request the answers to the below questions, in relation to your renal services at the hospitals.

- 1) How many patients are on dialysis at the hospital and are these seen two or three times per week?**

Response:

There are 77 patients currently receiving Haemodialysis.

- 62 patients receiving three times weekly dialysis
- 14 patients receiving two times weekly dialysis
- <5 patients receiving once per week dialysis

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

- 2) What is your current capacity level and what is your maximum capacity level of renal dialysis?**

Response:

The current capacity is 100, with a maximum capacity of 120.

- 3) What is your current number of dialysis machines and what brand are they? Also, who is the RO plant manufacturer?**

Response:

The Trust currently has 35 Fresenius 5008 machines.

The RO plant manufacturer is Gambro CWP heat and slave.

4) What is the average cost per patient for renal dialysis within a hospital environment?

Response:

The average cost is £340.

The £340 price was obtained from the Southern Trust finance dept. as the cost we would charge an individual to receive "holiday HD" within our renal unit.

5) How old is your RO system and dialysis machines, and are they due for replacement, decant or upgrade any time soon?

Response:

Dialysis machines are 4 years old and are still on contact with Fresenius

The RO was fitted in 2008 by Gambro, the Trust is reviewing potential options to upgrade the RO system however the system is currently not due to be replaced.

6) What is your contingency plan for when you run out of internal dialysis capacity or your machines/RO go down?

Response:

Within DHH hospital there are two additional water points in HHD and three portable RO's as assist with increased internal capacity.

In the event that the RO system would be non-functional the Trust undertake several actions:

- Medical staff would review all affected renal patients identifying those who need prioritised for their haemodialysis slots, those who can be delayed and those who can be provided with alternative short term therapy options to assist with a delay in accessing haemodialysis therapy.
- The Trust would utilise bedside dialysis spaces to facilitate a small internal capacity, this capacity would be prioritised by patient need.
- The Trust would work collectively with other regional dialysis units to facilitate slots within alternate units.

7) Where does the primary source of funding for the renal department stem from? Is it directly from the health board or elsewhere?

Response:

Funding is directly commissioned by the SPPG for the provision of a chronic haemodialysis population of 30 bed capacity.

8) Have you ever considered using a mobile renal dialysis unit to support your services through disaster recovery, decant, replacement or refurbishment?

Response:

No. When the unit requires refurbishment this will be undertaken in stages so not to interrupt patient's treatments.



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