

FOI2514

25/07/2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1:

The number of children who attended emergency departments at Southern Trust hospitals after swallowing objects (toys, for example) for the years of: 2015, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019* (*to date), broken down by year.

Question 2:

Details of the above attendances: broken down by dates, number of children per year, and description of item.

Response:

THE NUMBER OF NEW AND UNPLANNED EMERGENCY CARE/MINOR INJURIES ATTENDANCES AFTER SWALLOWING FOREIGN OBJECT FOR CHILDREN AGED 18 AND UNDER

ARRIVAL DATE BETWEEN 01/04/2019* TO 31/03/2024

*Please be advised that the Trust only retains data for a rolling 5 year period.

Data has been extracted from Business objects based on the following;

- "Triage Text matches pattern - % %SWALLOWED%
- Or Udda Diag Description 1-6 = Foreign body: alimentary tract; Foreign Body Foreign body: respiratory tract
- 500 patients in total were returned from Business Objects Query – 11 have been removed as these were either self-harm or swallow of chemical liquid
- UDDA Coding = 98% completed as at for Fiscal Year 2023/24. 2% has not been coded and therefore will be excluded from this report.

OBJECT	FY 2020 / 2021	FY 2021 / 2022	FY 2022 / 2023	FY 2019 / 2020	FY 2023 / 2024
COIN	45	41	36	42	30
TOY	15	16	15	9	10
BATTERIES	5	7	8	6	9
PLASTIC (BEAD/BALLOON/WRAPPER)	6	7	9	<5	6

METAL OBJECT (CLASP/BALL/SPIKE/KEYS)	9	6	<5	5	5
MEGNETIC BALL	12	<5	<5	<5	6
JEWELLERY	<5	5	8	<5	<5
GLASS	<5	<5	<5	6	5
SCREW/BOLT/STAPLE	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
NOT KNOWN WHAT WAS SWALLOWED	<5	<5	<5		
OTHER	<5	<5	<5		
HAIR ACCESSORY	6	<5			
PIN	<5	<5		<5	<5
STONE		<5	<5	<5	<5
PEN		<5			
PLANT	<5	<5		<5	
TEAT FROM BOTTLE		<5		<5	
LOLLIPOP STICK		<5	<5		
TOOTH			<5		<5
FISH BONE				<5	
DENTIAL PROBE		<5			
CHICKEN BONE					<5
NAIL CLIPPER		<5			

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.

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