

FOI 2560

15th July 2024**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST****QUESTION**

Under Freedom of Information legislation and pursuant to FOI/2546 (a) when did the guidance and/or procedure for medical staff come into force and (b) please provide a copy of what they replaced.

RESPONSE

As explained in the response to FOI request 2546 external fixators are removed in one of 2 places in the Southern Trust - Fracture Outpatient Clinic or in the Theatre Environment. The procedure is dependent on the fixator in situ; with the majority of external fixators being removed in Theatre. This is a clinical decision.

Clinical decision will be one of the following:

- Removal in theatre, this is under general or spinal anaesthetic.
- Removal in Clinic, under Pentrox/Entonox inhalant (Attachment 1)

In response to your further FOI request (FOI/2560) we can confirm that there are no official guidelines as removal of an external fixator is a clinical decision made in conjunction with the patient (consent). The attachment is the process followed in Fracture Clinic rather than formal or official guidance that replaced a previous document.

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