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21st May 2021

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 210337.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

I request that you provide me with the following information:

- **The number of needle chest decompressions undertaken by your service (or partner agencies on behalf of your services eg basics or HEMS) during recent years**

This field does not appear on the Electronic Patient Clinical Record (EPCR) render. It is on the paper Patient Clinical Record (PCR) but the field is not one that is validated and so any scanned data in this connection would be inaccurate.

- **The number of thoracostomies undertaken by your service (or partner agencies on your services behalf eg basics or HEMS) during recent years**

203 thoracostomies (bi-lateral) since 01/04/2019
(SECamb only, does not include HEMS)

- **Number and clinical grade of staff trained to perform thoracostomy within your service.**

Critical Care Paramedics (CCPs) + Doctors. Currently 81 + 2.

- **What grades of clinician are able to perform intubation within your service.**

Adult ETI – paramedic and above. Paediatric ETI – CCP and doctors only.

- **Success rates of thoracostomy and needle chest decompression divided by clinician grade (eg Paramedic, Critical Care Paramedic, doctor etc.).**

Thoracostomy success rate: 100% (if measured by 'gaining access to pleural cavity').

- **Average response time of a critical care / thoracostomy capable resource**

Average 999 time to 'on scene' time for a CCP that performed a thoracostomy: 20mins 30secs.

- **Patient outcome from thoracostomy and needle chest decompression (eg PLE/ROLE on scene, survival to hospital, survival to discharge).**

We do collect this data, at for some of the patient cohort, however we are not in a position to report patient outcome data to external sources in an unvalidated format.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust