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3rd March 2022

Email:

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Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 220215.

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

I am currently undertaking research into chest decompression techniques and equipment used across the U.K. and the efficacy of the procedure, please could you supply the following information -

Over the last 2 years from January 2020 – January 2022 please give any information relating to -

- 1. How often the procedure was carried out.**

Year	Month	Outcome	Count
2020	January	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	February	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	March	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	April	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	May	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	June	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	July	Not Recorded	12
2020	August	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	September	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	October	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	November	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2020	December	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	January	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	February	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	March	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	April	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	May	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	June	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	July	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	July	["BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	July	["NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	August	["AIR AND BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10

2021	August	["AIR RELEASE", "AIR AND BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	August	["AIR RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	August	["BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	August	["NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	September	["AIR AND BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	September	["AIR RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	September	["BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	September	["NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	October	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	October	["AIR AND BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	October	["BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	October	["NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	November	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2021	November	["AIR AND BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	November	["AIR RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	November	["BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	November	["NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	December	["AIR RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	December	["BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2021	December	["NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2022	January	Not Recorded	Less than 10
2022	January	["AIR AND BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2022	January	["AIR RELEASE", "BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2022	January	["AIR RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2022	January	["BLOOD RELEASE", "NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2022	January	["BLOOD RELEASE"]	Less than 10
2022	January	["NO RELEASE"]	Less than 10

	2020	2021	2022
January	Less than 10	Less than 10	14
February	Less than 10	Less than 10	
March	Less than 10	Less than 10	
April	Less than 10	Less than 10	
May	Less than 10	Less than 10	
June	Less than 10	Less than 10	
July	12	14	
August	Less than 10	16	
September	Less than 10	14	
October	Less than 10	10	
November	Less than 10	15	
December	Less than 10	Less than 10	
Grand Total	71	103	14

Please note that for figures that are less than 10 we are unable to provide the exact number as it may be identifiable to individuals.

2. The efficacy of the intervention, and location used.

100% success in decompression. 4th or 5th intercostal space, mid axillary line.

No access to efficacy figures – location is 2nd intercostal space, mid-clavicular line.

3. The equipment used for this procedure over the last 2 years and currently i.e. specific chest decompression needles (brand and length/gauge) or detail what gauge cannula is currently used (length and size please).

Finger thoracostomy performed using trust standard size 22 scalpel and spencer wells forceps. For needle thoracocentesis, CCPs use a Russell Pneumofix (+ size 22 scalpel). Standard trust cannula, size 16G.

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**