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27<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 220917.

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

**I would like this email to service as a request for comment regarding If your service permits the use of CPAP or other NIV (non invasive ventilation) method within the scope of practice by your services Paramedics, or Critical care paramedics (or equivalent). Not including doctors, or Air Ambulance staff. If this is a skill permitted, I would be interested in obtaining the criteria utilised by your service for determining the use of the procedure? and when the skill was introduced?**

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) is within the Scope of Practice for the Trust's Critical Care Paramedics (CCPs). The skill was introduced in Q1 2015 and its use is dictated by a Clinical Practice Guideline. There are three indications where it may be considered:

- Acute heart failure (cardiogenic pulmonary oedema)
- Acute Exacerbation of COPD
- Respiratory Failure (where the diagnosis is unclear)

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](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

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