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Internal Ref:
Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

Dear

The Trust is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, thank you. This request has been assigned the internal reference quoted above; please ensure that you quote this number in any future correspondence.

We have now provided a formal response below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding the completion of this request. At the time of writing the Trust continues to receive high volumes of FOI requests, many of which are complex and time consuming. In this instance, the Trust has not responded within the required 20 working days, and for this we apologise.

FOI Request

You asked us:

I'm writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about the rate of sodium nitrite poisoning in your hospital trust. Please note I am asking about sodium nitrite, not sodium nitrate.

For the past five years, up to and including 6 February 2025, I'd like to know the following:

- 1. How many cases of sodium nitrite poisoning were there? Please break this down into cases of a) intentional poisoning (eg suicide) and b) unintentional poisoning.**

A. Of the cases of sodium nitrite poisoning, how many of them were administered Methylene Blue?

- 2. How many deaths were there where sodium nitrite poisoning was listed as the, or a, cause of death? Please break this down into how many deaths were caused by a) intentional poisoning (eg suicide) and b) unintentional poisoning.**

A. Of the deaths caused by sodium nitrite poisoning, how many of them were administered Methylene Blue?



Formal Response

The Trust confirms it does not hold the information you requested.

1. Unfortunately, the Trust does not hold granular information about sodium nitrite poisoning. Instead, such cases are recorded under F04 - ACCIDENTAL POISONING or O14 - INTENTIONAL SELF POISONING. Both classifications include any substance considered a poison making it impossible to isolate sodium nitrite poisoning cases specifically.
- A. No records exist for Methylene Blue administration. Additionally, Methylthionium chloride is not listed in the Trust medicines formulary and would not be administered by a Trust clinician.

The Trust is unable to respond to questions 2a, b, or (2)A as cause of death data is not held in the Trust's electronic care record system.

Next steps

We hope you find the information provided to be of some assistance.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance, via the following email address: FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer. We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.

Alternatively, the ICO's postal address is:
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

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