



Trust Headquarters
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West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Internal Ref:
Email:

Dear,

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

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 have been informed by different ambulance staff that SECAMB previously had fluid warming devices in ambulances but they were removed sometime around 2014.

I have been unable to find much information online about whether fluid warming devices are still in place nationally. If they are not, I'd like to know when they were last in use, and the reasons for their removal.

I was also hoping that you could help me to find some statistics on either trauma patient mortality or survival rates in the years that fluid warming devices were used in ambulances, so that I can compare them to current rates.

Formal Response

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

There are no records to consider for disclosure, regarding last usage date or reasons for removal, for devices such as you mention.



We understand that you are seeking statistics on trauma patient mortality or survival rates during the years that fluid warming devices were used in ambulances, for the purposes of comparison with current rates.

Please note that:

- Patient survival or mortality outcomes are typically recorded by the receiving hospital, rather than the conveying ambulance service.
- The Trust does not routinely collect or hold patient outcome data (such as mortality or survival rates) specifically linked to the use of fluid warming devices in the pre-hospital (ambulance) setting.
- Additionally, our clinical data systems do not track the use of individual equipment items, such as fluid warmers, in a way that allows us to correlate them with individual patient outcomes.

As such, we are unable to provide the specific comparison you have requested. You may wish to consult national data sources, such as:

- NHS Digital
- Trauma Audit & Research Network (TARN)
- Academic publications on prehospital trauma care

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