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31st October 2025
Internal Ref: 251018
Email:

Dear Requester,

The trust acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, referenced above. Please ensure you quote this number in any future correspondence.

FOI Request

You asked us:

Please find my FOI request questions below.

In 2024 how many adult end of life (EOL) patients did the ambulance service attend.

How many adult EOL patients accessed your service more than once after being identified as EOL?

How many of these adult EOL patients were conveyed to hospital?

Do you have access to Palliative Care advice? If so, what hours and who can you speak to?

What DNACPR forms does your service have access to?

Are they in an electronic form for you to access?

Is your ambulance service able where appropriate, access anticipatory medications for dying patients. If so, how does this work?

Do you have a Paramedic EOL Lead?



Do you have a Medical EOL Lead?

Do you have any local guidance about leaving dying patients at home or transferring to other services? Are you able to share this?

Are you able to convey dying patients to anywhere other than the emergency department.

What training do you offer your paramedics and non-registered staff around palliative care and end of life care?

How often does this training occur?

In what format does this training occur?

Formal Response

In 2024 how many adult end of life (EOL) patients did the ambulance service attend.

The data we have available is from 01/04/2024- 01/04/2025 where we attended 5293 patients who were coded by on scene clinicians as EOLC. This is likely to be an under report due to coding errors. The codeset changed before this time and therefore do not have access to historic data.

How many adult EOL patients accessed your service more than once after being identified as EOL?

We do not have this data currently

How many of these adult EOL patients were conveyed to hospital?

22.1% of the patients in the above timeframe were conveyed to hospital. 76.9% of patients were treated on scene and were not conveyed.

Do you have access to Palliative Care advice? If so, what hours and who can you speak to?

There is regional variation in access to remote palliative care support. This is largely provided by hospices, who have variation in their access and service provision in providing advice to both patients and professionals. All SECamb clinicians have access to senior clinical decision making support internally.

What DNACPR forms does your service have access to?

SECamb advocates for the use of the Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment (ReSPECT) plans to document DNACPR decision making. However older forms such as the 'red bordered' DNACPR forms are also accepted.

Are they in an electronic form for you to access? There is digital access to these care plans if they are sent to us. The trust has access to wider digital shared care records in Kent and Surrey via the control room.

Is your ambulance service able where appropriate, access anticipatory medications for dying patients. If so, how does this work?



If the patient has Just in Case medications within their home, SECamb registered clinicians are supported to administer these, provided there are valid medicine instruction charts also in place. Our Advanced Paramedics also carry specific medications for EOLC if needed in an emergency.

Do you have a Paramedic EOL Lead? The trust has two part-time paramedic EOLC Leads which equates to one whole time equivalent role.

Do you have a Medical EOL Lead? The paramedic EOLC Leads sit within the Paramedic Directorate.

Do you have any local guidance about leaving dying patients at home or transferring to other services? Are you able to share this?

We have the trust EOLC Guidance and Procedures. We are also guided by the JRCALC national guidance.

Are you able to convey dying patients to anywhere other than the emergency department.

We are commissioned to convey patients from home to hospice if an urgent transfer is required.

If we are called to a patients home in an emergency there may be rare circumstances where a hospice bed is available and appropriate for the patient, we would be able to convey there with prior agreement from hospice teams.

What training do you offer your paramedics and non-registered staff around palliative care and end of life care?

How often does this training occur?

In what format does this training occur?

All SECamb clinicians receive education around EOLC before commencing their role. For non-registered clinicians this is directly from the trust paramedic EOLC Leads. For registrant staff, the paramedic EOLC leads provide training on SECamb specific procedures and pathways before commencing their role with the trust. This is in addition to any pre-registration training delivered by their university teams. The trust paramedic EOLC Leads work with local universities to support learning where requested.

Next steps

Please note you will be able to source a lot of information which is made available on our website.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Richard Banks, Head of Corporate 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



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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**



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