



Trust Headquarters
Nexus House
4 Gatwick Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

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

31st July 2026
Internal Reference: 260657
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **30/06/2026**.
We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Please ensure you quote the Internal Reference number above in any future correspondence.

Please accept the Trust's apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding your FOIA request.

Your Request

1. Please provide the date when your medical device (as defined by MHRA, i.e. also including relevant software) procurement policy (or policies, if you e.g. have a separate one for medical software) was/were last updated.
2. Please state whether the policy (mentioned in point 1 above) requires that a clinical ethicist should be consulted during purchase decisions (if a clinical ethicist is only needs to be consulted under certain conditions, please list these). A clinical ethicists is defined as a member of your clinical ethics committee (under whatever name it operates in your organisation, but this does not include research ethics committees) or an academic with a dedicated post in ethics or a permanent staff members explicitly employed to provide clinical ethics support.
3. If the policy requires ethical issues to be considered during such devise purchase decisions, but not via input of a clinical ethicist as defined above, please state the mechanisms in place for fulfilling that requirement.
4. Please state whether you had clinical ethicist (as defined above) involvement in the purchase of any clinical artificial intelligence applications irrespective of whether this is mandated by your policy.

Formal Response

The Trust does not hold a specific Medical Devices Procurement Policy, nor does it hold a separate policy specifically for the procurement of medical software. Procurement decisions for medical devices and associated software are managed through the Trust's wider procurement and governance arrangements. As there is no specific medical device procurement policy of the type described in your request.

The Trust holds a Medical Devices Management Policy, Version 6.0, which was approved and issued on 28/11/2024. The policy is next due for review on 28/11/2027.

The policy does not require consultation with a clinical ethicist during medical device purchase decisions. The policy provides that new medical devices must not be introduced or trialled without formal approval from the Clinical Equipment and Consumables Working Group, and that device suitability, funding, servicing, risk assessment, training, record keeping, decontamination and governance requirements must be considered before entry into service.

Where ethical or wider governance considerations arise, the policy does not set out a specific clinical ethicist route. Instead, the policy requires medical devices to be managed through the Trust's established governance arrangements, including formal approval by the Clinical Equipment and Consumables Working Group and consideration of risk assessment, clinical suitability, training needs, manufacturer guidance, asset management, servicing, decontamination and disposal requirements. The Trust does not hold recorded information indicating clinical ethicist involvement, as defined in your request, in the purchase of clinical artificial intelligence applications.

Next steps

Some information held by the Trust is routinely published on our [website](#) and may be of assistance.

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Requests for an internal review should be submitted within **40 working days** of the date of this response and should be sent to:





Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance at FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

The internal review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in handling your original request, ordinarily the Trust's Data Protection Officer. We aim to complete internal reviews within **20 working days** of receipt.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of the internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO generally expects complaints to be raised promptly following the completion of an internal review.

The easiest way to raise a complaint is via the ICO's website:

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Alternatively, you may write to:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Corporate Governance Team

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

