



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS  
Foundation Trust  
Nexus House  
Gatwick Road  
Crawley  
RH10 9BG

Date 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

Email:

Email:foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/18/04/16.

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

**1. What treatments/medications do paramedics currently carry to reverse hyperkalaemia in cardiac arrest? If any, what is the criteria to give it?**

First level paramedics do not treat hyperkalaemia in SECAMB

**2. Are there any plans for the future for paramedics to carry any medications to reverse hyperkalaemia? If so, what?**

No plans currently as critical care paramedics can provide this treatment and be called to scene if needed

**3. What do Critical care paramedics carry to reverse hyperkalaemia in cardiac arrest? Do they carry calcium chloride, sodium bicarbonate etc?**

Calcium Chloride only

**4. What is the criteria for giving this medication?**

The following indications are taken from the PGD for Calcium Chloride;

Adults and children 12 years and above in cardiac arrest caused by:

- Overdose of a calcium-channel blocker drug
- Known or suspected hyperkalaemia
- Known or suspected hypocalcaemia.

**5. Also, do HEMS carry anything to reverse hyperkalaemia in cardiac arrest, if so what and what is the criteria for giving it?**

A separate FOI would need to be sent to Kent Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance Trust for this information

**6. How many cardiac arrests have you attended in 2015, 2016 and 2017? How many of these was resuscitation attempted on?**

Please see table below. Please note these figures include the following problem/natures:

- Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest

- Death Expected <18
- Death Expected >18
- Death Unexpected all ages

*Please note that the problem nature is determined by the call taker, and not a diagnosis, what was found when a crew arrived on scene or what the patient was treated for if conveyed to hospital.*

Year	Responses*
2015	7351
2016	8045
2017	8011

\*This figure is for all calls which had at least once response sent

For attempted resus (where the arrest was out of hospital and resus was commenced or continued by the ambulance service)

the figures were as follows:

Apr 15 to Mar 16 - 2742

Apr 16 to Mar 17 - 3118

Apr 17 to Dec 17 – 2204 (these figures are audited 3 months in arrears)

#### **7. How many were caused by hyperkalaemia?**

Unfortunately, we do not hold this information

#### **8. How many were given medications to reverse hyperkalaemia?**

This is not possible to state. However, CCPs used Calcium Chloride according to its indications 39 times in total across the region in the past year

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, Information Governance Manager 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