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

Email:foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Date 22nd August 2018

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/18/07/29.

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

I am undertaking a review of the effectiveness of needle cricothyroidotomy when compared to surgical cricothyroidotomy.

As part of this report I would like to request information about:

1. What clinical grade of staff are allowed to use different types of airway?

All grades of staff can use different types of airway. In relation to cricothyroidotomy the following applies;
- needle cricothyroidotomy – ALL paramedics (including specialist/advanced paramedics)
- surgical cricothyroidotomy – Critical Care Paramedics only

2. And cases that your trust has had over the past 6 years when either of the two above mentioned skills have been used, 2012/13 - 2017/18.

If you could simply provide me a number of times they've each been used along with a number of ROLE vs transported, then that would be appreciated.

Since surgical cricothyroidotomy was introduced to the Critical Care Paramedic workforce in September 2015 there have been 7 FONA's. 6 ROLE (Recognition of Life Extinct) and one transported alive.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide information on the number of needle cricothyroidotomy as this would involve reviewing each individual record and would exceed 18 hours and therefore be exempt under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004.

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 Lead via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

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

Your service,
your call