

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Under the *Freedom of Information Act*, I would like to request the following information:

1. The type and number of tourniquets used for venepuncture and cannulation annually in your Hospital Trust, specifically whether you use single use (disposable) or reusable tourniquets and what material they are made out of.

We primarily use single use tourniquets, IN 22/23 we used 349850 tourniquets. In a couple of places we will be starting to trial the reusable tourniquets in the coming months.

2. If you use a mix of both, whether there is there any Trust policy for deciding which tourniquet to use.

There is no trust policy – it is more historic that we have always used single use but will start to look at re-usable for the sustainability factor.

3. When you first introduced single use tourniquets, if you do use them.

10 years plus

4. The cost per single use tourniquet/other type of tourniquet you use (or total annual cost)

Total cost for 22/23 on tourniquets was £27,064.90

5. The MRSA infection rates at your Trust, for three years either side of your introduction of single use tourniquets, referring to bloodstream infections (bacteremias) rather than surface carriage.

Unable to answer as we don't have a specific start date for introduction

6. Whether you implemented any of the following infection control procedures within the same year as implementing single use tourniquets:

Stricter hand hygiene policy

Staff education programme on infection control procedures

Screening of patients for MRSA on admission to hospital

Isolation or decolonisation of patients who tested positive for MRSA

We have not introduced any stricter hand hygiene policies, education etc in correlation with tourniquets. Our education and policies are standard. Nothing new would be implemented in relation to tourniquets except the expectation that if they were reusable they would need to be cleaned before/after use with the trust approved cleaning agent.