



Resolution

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FOI_5912

The following information was requested on 31 March 2023 and clarified on 4 April 2023:

Just seen this latest publication of yours. I'm wondering if you could provide me with the data that contributed to the 'anaesthetic errors' please?

[We explained]

Thank you for your request for information.

Please can you clarify the following:

Your request relates to the publication here: [NHS Resolution – Did you know? Paediatric medicine errors](#)

*Are you referring to the data behind the analysis referred to on **page 4**?*

It is not clear what information you require.

*We would **not** be able to provide information about individual cases due to Data Protection grounds.*

Please can you clarify what information you require, as it is not entirely clear?

[You replied]

Thanks for your email.

I am referring to the page headed "Which specialty results in the most claims?" The text immediately below this heading includes 'anaesthetics' as a common medical specialty in which errors occur.

My query is essentially an elaboration on this data, i.e. those claims originating from anaesthesia as a specialty in which a drug error occurred. I guess that's a 'yes' to your question to me!

Whilst I understand that you cannot comment on individual cases, I wondered if you could comment on which drugs are commonly mis-prescribed; what age of child tends to be most susceptible to such errors; whether errors are more common outside of a tertiary setting (versus a district general hospital say); and whether errors are associated with specific surgical procedures.

Our Response

We believe your request relates to the publication: [NHS Resolution – Did you know? Paediatric medicine errors](#)

We are unable to provide the exact name of the drugs without interrogating individual claims files, which would likely exceed the time limit set under the Freedom of Information Act.

The information we are able to provide within the time limit is as follows:

- The drug types most commonly involved in order were muscle relaxants, sedatives and local anaesthesia.
- The most common causes resulting in harm were line not flushed before subsequent medication and ineffective anaesthesia resulting in intraoperative awareness.
- The age range most effected by anaesthesia medicine errors were jointly 5-10 years and 11-16 years.
- Most claims took place in tertiary or teaching hospitals.
- Errors outside of tertiary centres related to allergy or wrong site blocks. Wrong site-anaesthetic block being applied to wrong side of the body.

The overall number of claims involved for all of the points mentioned above is: 11

Please note although all of these claims involved anaesthetic drugs, the recorded speciality on our claims management system is not consistently recorded as anaesthesia. At times, the surgical specialty was recorded instead.

We are unable to provide a breakdown based on number of claims associated with each bullet point, as we believe that disclosure of information with this level of granularity is exempt under Section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3A) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, where disclosure to a member of the public would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. The data protection principles are set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation.

In some instances the low numbers of claims (fewer than 5) in each category, the likelihood exists that individuals who are the subject of this information may be identified either from this information alone, or in combination with other available information. In addition to this, as this information is considered to be sensitive personal data (the data subjects' medical condition); NHS Resolution believes it has a greater responsibility to protect those individuals identities', as disclosure could potentially cause damage and/or distress to those involved.

Colleagues from our [Safety and Learning team](#) will be happy to discuss this research with you if you require further information. Contact details for our Safety and Learning team is available here: [Safety and Learning - NHS Resolution](#)

Further to our obligations to provide advice and assistance, you may find it helpful to review the work of the [Getting It Right First Time team](#) with whom NHS Resolution has been working with to undertake in-depth analysis of our claims data. They have produced a number of [reports](#) from analysing our claims data which has been shared following approval of the confidentiality advisory group to the use of confidential patient information for this purpose.

If you would like to know how data is categorised in our Claims database please see the following link: [Glossary](#)

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are not satisfied with the service that you have received in response to your information request, it is open to you to make a complaint and request a formal review of our decisions. If you choose to do this, you should write to [Tinku Mitra](#), Deputy Director of Corporate and Information Governance, Data Protection Officer for NHS Resolution, within 28 days of your receipt of this reply. Reviews of decisions made in relation to information requests are carried out by a person who was not involved in the original decision-making about the request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of the decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the local complaints procedure. The address of the Information Commissioner's Office is:

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Water Lane
Wilmslow
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