



Resolution

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July 2026
FOI_7969

The following information was requested on 7 July 2026 and clarified on 8 July 2026:

Thank you for considering the following requests:

1. Medication errors in anaesthesia (general category)

*The number of clinical negligence claims recorded where the primary or a contributing factor is coded as a medication error occurring in an anaesthetic or peri-operative context.
The total value of damages paid for these claims.*

2. Inadvertent administration of neuromuscular blocking (paralysing) agents

The number of claims specifically involving the inadvertent, accidental, or wrong-drug administration of a neuromuscular blocking agent (e.g. rocuronium, atracurium, cisatracurium, suxamethonium, vecuronium), including administration in error in place of a different intended drug.

The total and average value of damages paid for these claims.

3. Accidental awareness under general anaesthesia (AAGA)

*The number of claims specifically relating to accidental awareness under general anaesthesia.
The total and average value of damages paid for these claims.*

Where recorded, any indication of whether the claim was associated with a neuromuscular blocking agent administration error or other medication-related cause (as distinct from anaesthetic depth/monitoring causes).

[we clarified on 7 July 2026 with]

We can provide information about medication errors in anaesthesia (Q1). Please, could you confirm the date range you are interested in? We hold information in financial years from 2006/07 up to 2024/25.

In terms of Q2 and Q3, we do not have a learning code for those specific categories such as type of medication or AAGA, we cannot readily extract it from our database.

We also have following cause codes that may be helpful:

- Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec*
- Incorrect injection site*
- IntravAdminMisselecConcentrPotassChlor*

- *Wrong route Admin of Chemo*

You may also refer to previous responses regarding claims for medication errors that we published on our website: [Fol Requests Archive - NHS Resolution](#) and a report related to litigation in anaesthesia: [Litigation related to anaesthesia: analysis of claims report published - NHS Resolution](#).

Please, could you review the above guidance and confirm what information you would like us to provide.

[you responded on 8 July 2026 with]

I will amend accordingly to these 2 questions:

1. *Medication errors in anaesthesia (general category)*

The number of clinical negligence claims recorded where the primary or a contributing factor is coded as a medication error occurring in anaesthesia (alone), in the category of: Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec

2. *The total value of damages paid for these claims.*

[we further clarified on 8 July 2026 with]

Please, note that Medication error and Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec are two separate causes codes, so the data provided would be for claims in specialty Anaesthesia for these two causes.

Also, what date range for this data do you require, i.e. last 10 FY? Would you like this information broken down by year?

[you responded on 8 July 2026 with]

Thank you,

10 years of data would be ideal.

The 2 separate causes as you describe would provide the information I am looking for.

Our Response

Please find attached the requested information. We hold claims data for England, not the rest of the UK.

NB: We have recently changed the way we report on our FOIs to align better with our published documents. Streamlining our reporting on FOIs with our annual published reports may mean a variation in snapshot dates. This means this data may not align with previous similar requests and it may not be possible for you to compare this

information with a previous request. For further information, please refer to [Understanding NHS Resolution data - NHS Resolution](#).

Claims notified/received in any given year will often relate to incidents that have occurred many years prior. Due to the nature of clinical negligence claims and the level of investigation needed to bring them to a resolution, claims received and notified in a specific year may take years to settle and close. **They are not guaranteed to be settled and closed in the same year.** As such there will be a time gap between incident and claim closure. Not all claims received will result in an award of compensation.

Due to the way in which data is extracted, it is also possible that the same claim may appear more than once in a dataset, across different year groups e.g. where the case has been closed (as unsuccessful), challenged, reopened, and closed again at conclusion.

Please also note that the data shows variation in the number of claims received and the damages paid in the relevant financial years. This is a reflection of the nature of individual claims received by NHS Resolution, which can vary significantly. In some circumstances, volumes of reported cases may be impacted by multiple claims notified in relation to one cause of action. As such, year on year fluctuations cannot necessarily be interpreted as trends.

For information about our Clinical Negligence Schemes, please visit our website here: [Clinical schemes - NHS Resolution](#).

Please find attached the following tables:

Table 1 shows: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is '**Anaesthesia**' and the Cause at any level is '**Medication Errors**' or '**Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec**'. Broken down by Year.

Table 2 shows: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is '**Anaesthesia**' and the Cause at any level is '**Medication Errors**' or '**Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec**'. Broken down by Year. The data includes the damages paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

PPOs

The information disclosed includes damages and costs paid up to the end of the settlement year (in Periodical payment order (PPO) cases) and up to the end of the closure year in non-PPO cases.

PPOs are an agreement between the parties, to pay an initial lump sum and regular future payments (PPO damages) related to the injured party's ongoing needs, usually care for life i.e., a percentage of the full value of the claim is paid at the point of settlement (lump sum damages) with the balance paid at regular intervals over subsequent years. The information disclosed includes lump sum damages, costs and any PPO damages paid up to the end of the year of settlement. It does not include PPO damages, which have been committed to but due to be paid after the settlement year.

Please refer to [Understanding NHS Resolution data](#) guidance for further details on how our Claims database is categorised.

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 several [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

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 [Joanne Appleby](#), Deputy 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:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/>

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NB: Number of claims fewer than 5 (and any associated values, within the same row) are masked with a "#" (in accordance with Data Protection guidelines). Accordingly, some total values may also be approximated to prevent masked values to be deduced through reverse calculation.

Table 1: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Anaesthesia' and the Cause at any level is 'Medication Errors' or 'Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec'. Broken down by Year.

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Anaesthesia' and the Cause at any level is 'Medication Errors' or 'Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec'. Broken down by Year. The data includes the damages paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

Table 1: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Anaesthesia' and the Cause at any level is 'Medication Errors' or 'Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec'. Broken down by Year.

Notified	Y
Year of Notification	No. of Claims
2015/16	32
2016/17	22
2017/18	37
2018/19	30
2019/20	30
2020/21	18
2021/22	20
2022/23	16
2023/24	20
2024/25	25
Grand Total	250

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Anaesthesia' and the Cause at any level is 'Medication Errors' or 'Err with Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec'. Broken down by Year. The data includes the damages paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

ClaimOutcome ClosedSettled	Damages Paid Y	
Year of Closure (Settlement for PPOs)	No. of Claims	Damages Paid
2015/16	20	482,312
2016/17	29	3,973,026
2017/18	28	4,350,761
2018/19	30	2,280,195
2019/20	28	1,318,093
2020/21	21	2,482,033
2021/22	16	2,929,994
2022/23	19	1,229,237
2023/24	16	6,107,525
2024/25	20	5,138,681
Grand Total	227	30,291,858