



Resolution

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December 2019
FOI_4123

The following information was requested on 22 November 2019:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act of 2000. My request relates to problems that have occurred during amputation operations at hospitals in England.

I am requesting the following:

- 1. If you have access to it, a list of the total number of amputations of arm, leg, genitals, hand, finger and toe that have taken place over the past ten years.*
- 2. The amount of cases of the above that have resulted in claims of medical negligence.*
- 3. The amount of cases of the above that have resulted in your informing your insurers of a possible claim for medical negligence.*
- 4. The details of what happened in each incident.*

Should there be any risk of identifying individuals, you may redact the documents or information and therefore still release it to me.

Our Response

1. This information is not held. We would only hold information in relation to claims. This information may be held by [NHS Digital](#).
2. Please find attached the requested information.
3. Please find attached the requested information. We administer indemnity schemes covering the legal liabilities of NHS organisations in England. The NHS in England does not have commercial insurance for clinical negligence liabilities.
4. We are unable to provide this information for the reasons stated below. However, we have provided the primary causes of these injuries in the attached report.

We have suppressed low figures and are unable to provide information about individual cases as we believe that disclosure of information with this level of granularity is exempt under Section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOI 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. We take the view that it would not be fair or lawful (given the sensitive and confidential nature of the information held) to disclose such information, and any disclosure would therefore contravene the first data protection principle.

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. Where we are in the territory of such small numbers in the attached, we have used a '#' symbol in the relevant field. You should still be able to see aggregate/total details for higher level fields containing this data.

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](#), Head of Corporate and Information Governance 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

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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 Claims received between financial years 2009/10 and 2018/19 where one of the injuries sustained is either "Amputation-Upper" or "Amputation-Lower" broken down by Primary Cause](#)

Table 1: Number of Claims received between financial years 2009/10 and 2018/19 where one of the injuries sustained is either "Amputation-Upper" or "Amputation-Lower" broken down by Primary Cause

Notifications	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	(All)

Notification Year	No. of Claims
2009/10	122
Bacterial Infection	8
Delay In Performing Operation	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	44
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	6
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	#
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	32
Inadequate Nursing Care	7
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	5
Intra-Op Problems	#
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	#
Poor Application Of Plstr Cast	#
Self Harm	#
2010/11	189
Bacterial Infection	7
Delay In Performing Operation	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	60
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#
Fail To Infrm Test Rslts	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	12
Fail To Supervise	#
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	5
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	#
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	#
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure To X-Ray	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	34
Inadequate Nursing Care	10
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	10
Intra-Op Problems	18
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	#
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	#
Self Harm	#
Slip or Trip	#
Wrong Site Surgery	#
2011/12	160
Bacterial Infection	#
Cross Infection	#
Delay In Performing Operation	8

Table 1: Number of Claims received between financial years 2009/10 and 2018/19 where one of the injuries sustained is either "Amputation-Upper" or "Amputation-Lower" broken down by Primary Cause

Notifications	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	(All)

Notification Year	No. of Claims
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	57
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	5
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	#
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	#
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	33
Foreign Body Left In Situ	#
Improp. Delegation To Junior	#
Inadequate Nursing Care	9
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	18
Intra-Op Problems	6
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	#
Operator Error	#
Re-Canalisation	#
Wrong Diagnosis	#
2012/13	175
Bacterial Infection	#
Cross Infection	#
Delay In Performing Operation	#
Equipment Malfunction	#
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	56
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	7
Fail To Supervise	#
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	#
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	#
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure To X-Ray	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	45
Foreign Body Left In Situ	#
Inadequate Nursing Care	8
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	15
Infusion Problems	#
Intra-Op Problems	9
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Medication Errors	#
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	#
Poor Application Of Plstr Cast	#
Wrong Diagnosis	#
2013/14	179
Bacterial Infection	#

Table 1: Number of Claims received between financial years 2009/10 and 2018/19 where one of the injuries sustained is either "Amputation-Upper" or "Amputation-Lower" broken down by Primary Cause

Notifications	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	(All)

Notification Year	No. of Claims
Clinical Trial	#
Defective Tools/Equip	#
Delay In Performing Operation	9
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	62
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	7
Fail To Supervise	#
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	#
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	#
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	#
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure To X-Ray	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	33
Foreign Body Left In Situ	#
Inadequate Nursing Care	10
Inappropriate Treatment	12
Intra-Op Problems	6
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Lack Of Facilities/Equipment	#
Operator Error	#
Poor Application Of Plstr Cast	#
Self Harm	#
Wrong Diagnosis	#
2014/15	214
Bacterial Infection	#
Delay In Performing Operation	10
Fail / Delay Treatment	99
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Fail To Infrm Test Rslts	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	10
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	#
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	5
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure To X-Ray	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	22
Inadequate Nursing Care	11
Inadqte Monitor In Recov Room	#
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	14

Table 1: Number of Claims received between financial years 2009/10 and 2018/19 where one of the injuries sustained is either "Amputation-Upper" or "Amputation-Lower" broken down by Primary Cause

Notifications	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	(All)

Notification Year	No. of Claims
Infusion Problems	#
Intra-Op Problems	6
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	#
Operator Error	#
Other	#
Poor Application Of Plstr Cast	#
Self Harm	#
2015/16	203
Bacterial Infection	#
Cross Infection	#
Delay In Performing Operation	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	78
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	8
Fail To Supervise	#
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	6
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	6
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	40
Hit by Object	#
Inadequate Nursing Care	8
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	17
Infusion Problems	#
Intra-Op Problems	#
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	#
Medication Errors	#
Operator Error	#
Other	#
2016/17	232
Bacterial Infection	5
Defective Tools/Equip	#
Delay In Performing Operation	8
Equipment Malfunction	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	88
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	7
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	9
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	8
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	6
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	13
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Failure To Perform Tests	7

Table 1: Number of Claims received between financial years 2009/10 and 2018/19 where one of the injuries sustained is either "Amputation-Upper" or "Amputation-Lower" broken down by Primary Cause

Notifications	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	(All)

Notification Year	No. of Claims
Failure To X-Ray	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	34
Inadequate Nursing Care	12
Inapprop. Case Selection	#
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	14
Infusion Problems	#
Intra-Op Problems	#
Medication Errors	#
Operator Error	#
Wrong Diagnosis	#
2017/18	217
Bacterial Infection	#
Defective Tools/Equip	#
Delay In Performing Operation	#
Equipment Malfunction	#
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	104
Fail Antenatal Screening	#
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Fail To Interpret USS	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	5
Fail To Supervise	#
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	#
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	7
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	34
Inadequate Nursing Care	14
Inappropriate Treatment	17
Intra-Op Problems	#
Medication Errors	#
Operator Error	#
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	#
Unexpected Death	#
Wrong Diagnosis	#
2018/19	192
Application Of Excess Force	#
Bacterial Infection	5
Delay In Performing Operation	#
Equipment Malfunction	#
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	83
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	6

Table 1: Number of Claims received between financial years 2009/10 and 2018/19 where one of the injuries sustained is either "Amputation-Upper" or "Amputation-Lower" broken down by Primary Cause

Notifications	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	(All)

Notification Year	No. of Claims
Fail To Supervise	#
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	#
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	5
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	9
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	25
Foreign Body Left In Situ	#
Inadequate Nursing Care	6
Inappropriate Discharge	#
Inappropriate Treatment	20
Intra-Op Problems	#
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	#
Operator Error	#
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	#
Wrong Diagnosis	#
Grand Total	1,883