

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2024/10442

Date Received: 20th January 2025

Response Due: 17th February 2025

Date: 17th February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 20th January 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Please may you provide me with the answers to the following questions:

- 1. What are the total number of NHS referrals for primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs at your trust in the last 3 years with a year-on-year breakdown?**
The Trust does not hold this information as referrals are not available at diagnosis or procedure level.
- 2. What are the total number of primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs performed for the NHS at your trust in the last 3 years with a year-on-year breakdown?**

Primary Procedure	2022	2023	2024
Ligation of patent processus vaginalis	0	<5	7
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of natural material	0	0	<5
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of prosthetic material	11	11	11
Primary repair of femoral hernia using sutures	<5	<5	8
Primary repair of inguinal hernia and reduction of sliding hernia	<5	<5	<5
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of natural material	0	<5	<5
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of prosthetic material	225	208	419
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using sutures	<5	<5	<5
Repair of umbilical hernia using insert of prosthetic material	86	95	171
Repair of umbilical hernia using sutures	18	25	47
Unspecified primary repair of umbilical hernia	<5	0	<5

*The Trust does not have specific epigastric hernia codes.

*The above figures do not include outpatient procedures.

3. How many of these NHS Hernia patients were treated by Open repair? And how many by Laparoscopic repair? Of these treated by Open repair, how many were done under a Local Anaesthetic?

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

4. What proportion of these NHS hernia patients required an overnight stay during the period above or for what period you are able to provide this?

Primary Procedure	2022	2023	2024
Ligation of patent processus vaginalis	0	<5	7
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of natural material	0	0	<5
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of prosthetic material	11	11	11
Primary repair of femoral hernia using sutures	<5	<5	<5
Primary repair of inguinal hernia and reduction of sliding hernia	<5	<5	<5
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of natural material	0	<5	<5
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of prosthetic material	225	208	419
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using sutures	<5	<5	<5
Repair of umbilical hernia using insert of prosthetic material	86	95	171
Repair of umbilical hernia using sutures	18	25	47
Unspecified primary repair of umbilical hernia	<5	0	<5

5. What is the average wait time for an NHS hernia patient to be seen in an outpatient clinic?

The Trust does not have specific hernia clinics. Patients are seen in General Surgery clinics therefore this information cannot be split.

6. What is the average time between an NHS hernia patient being listed for surgery to the operation being performed?

	Average Number of Days		
Primary Procedure	2022	2023	2024
Ligation of patent processus vaginalis	0	436	324
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of natural material	0	0	0
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of prosthetic material	109	146	118
Primary repair of femoral hernia using sutures	0	76	109
Primary repair of inguinal hernia and reduction of sliding hernia	113	320	222
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of natural material	0	481	28
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of prosthetic material	157	171	154
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using sutures	0	387	123
Repair of umbilical hernia using insert of prosthetic material	135	185	167
Repair of umbilical hernia using sutures	144	134	142
Unspecified primary repair of umbilical hernia	154	0	88

7. How many NHS hernia patients have required readmission following any type of hernia surgery outlined above?

Primary Procedure	2022	2023	2024
Ligation of patent processus vaginalis	<5	0	<5
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of natural material	0	<5	<5
Primary repair of femoral hernia using insert of prosthetic material	0	<5	<5
Primary repair of femoral hernia using sutures	108	94	123
Primary repair of inguinal hernia and reduction of sliding hernia	0	0	<5
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of natural material	0	<5	0
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using insert of prosthetic material	7	5	11
Primary repair of inguinal hernia using sutures	<5	<5	<5
Repair of umbilical hernia using insert of prosthetic material	28	29	38
Repair of umbilical hernia using sutures	13	13	16
Unspecified primary repair of umbilical hernia	0	<5	<5

8. How many patients developed a post operative infection within 10 days of surgery?

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

9. How many patients developed chronic pain after the Hernia repair?

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

10. How many patients developed a recurrent hernia within one year of Surgery?

Primary Procedure	2022	2023	2024
Other specified repair of recurrent umbilical hernia	<5	0	0
Repair of recurrent femoral hernia using insert of prosthetic material	0	<5	<5
Repair of recurrent inguinal hernia using insert of prosthetic material	17	17	27
Repair of recurrent inguinal hernia using sutures	<5	<5	0
Repair of recurrent umbilical hernia using insert of prosthetic material	<5	5	14
Repair of recurrent umbilical hernia using sutures	<5	<5	<5

*The above figures are the number of recurrent hernias, however it is not possible to state whether these were within one year of surgery.

The Trust has a standard procedure of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

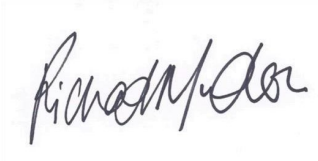
To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and

b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Mundon', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Mundon
Deputy Chief Executive

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111