

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2019/5331

Date Received: 4th April 2019

Response Due: 7th May 2019

25th April 2019

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act please may I have answers to the following questions. This request is to audit implementation of the RCOG/BSGE statement about choice and pain-relief in hysteroscopy.

1. a) Have your hysteroscopists read the following statement issued by the RCOG in December 2018 - Y/N?

Yes

b) Have your hysteroscopy managers read the following statement – Y/N?

Yes

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-re...>

The British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy published this statement in December 2018:

"Diagnostic hysteroscopy is a commonly performed investigation; it is safe and of short duration. Most women are able to have the procedure in an outpatient setting, with or without local anaesthesia, and find it convenient and acceptable. However, it is important that women are offered, from the outset, the choice of having the procedure performed as a day case procedure under general or regional anaesthetic. Some centres are also able to offer a conscious sedation

service in a safe and monitored environment. It is important that the procedure is stopped if a woman finds the outpatient experience too painful for it to be continued. This may be at the request of the patient or nursing staff in attendance, or at the discretion of the clinician performing the investigation."

2. Please are ALL your hysteroscopy patients from the outset routinely offered the choice of having hysteroscopy as a day case procedure

a) under GA – Y/N?

No

b) under regional anaesthetic – Y/N?

No

c) with IV sedation?

No

3. Do your hysteroscopy consent forms contain tick-boxes to enable a patient to choose

Verbal consent only for outpatient procedures

a) GA – Y/N?

b) regional anaesthesia – Y/N? c) IV sedation – Y/N?

4. Have all your outpatient hysteroscopy teams received written instruction to monitor the patient throughout the procedure, to ask if she is experiencing pain, and to stop if the patient asks or is showing signs of severe pain or distress – Y/N?

Small dedicated team who are individually trained to support this service with no need for written instructions

5. Do all your hysteroscopy clinics routinely record ALL patients' VAS pain-scores

a) as hysteroscope passes through the cervix – Y/N

No

b) at biopsy – Y/N?

No

6. Does your hysteroscopy department send all its patients the RCOG's Patient Information Leaflet, published on its website - Y/N? <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/patients/pati...>

No

7. Does your hysteroscopy department intend to start using the RCOG leaflet – Y/N? If so, in which month/year?

No

8. If your hysteroscopy department uses its own Patient Information Leaflet, please may I have a link to it?

Please see the attached appointment letter.

https://www.wvl.nhs.uk/Library/All_New_PI_Docs/Gynae/Gyn%20062%20Outpatient%20Hysteroscopy%2010.20%20v2.pdf

https://www.wvl.nhs.uk/Library/All_New_PI_Docs/Gynae/Gyn%20023%20Hysteroscopy%20inc%20Polypectomy%2001.21%20v8.pdf

9. Does the leaflet include ALL the key points listed (below) by the RCOG – Y/N?

No

Key points

• **Outpatient hysteroscopy (OPH) is a procedure carried out in the outpatient clinic that involves examination of the inside of your uterus (womb) with a thin telescope.**

Yes

• **There are many reasons why you may be referred for OPH, such as to investigate and/or treat abnormal bleeding, to remove a polyp seen on a scan or to remove a coil with missing threads.**

No

• **The actual procedure usually takes 10–15 minutes. It can take longer if you are having any additional procedures.**

Yes

• **You may feel pain or discomfort during OPH. It is recommended that you take pain relief 1–2 hours before the appointment.**

Yes

• **If it is too painful, it is important to let your healthcare professional know as the procedure can be stopped at any time.**

No but this is said verbally at the time of the procedure to all patients

• **You may choose to have the hysteroscopy under general anaesthetic. This will be done in an operating theatre, usually as a day case procedure.**

No

• **Possible risks with hysteroscopy include pain, feeling faint or sick, bleeding, infection and rarely uterine perforation (damage to the wall of the uterus). The risk of uterine perforation is lower during OPH than during hysteroscopy under general anaesthesia**

All the above are mentioned with the exception of the risk being lower for OPH.

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 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 'Andrew Foster', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

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If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF