

Title: Sterilisation of Surgical Instruments

Reference Number: RDF1139-22

Date of Response: 17/01/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

The FOI aims:

To establish the preferential wrap method used for the sterilisation of surgical instruments in the Sterile Services Department (SSD), the associated process and any limitations associated with the used option and the impact on service delivery.

Please, base the data on a period covering 1st April 2022 to 30th November 2022.

Answers to questions 1-22 should be provided by Sterile Services Department and questions 23-28 by the main theatres.

Answer: Please see table below.

Question <i>1st April 2022 to 30th November 2022.</i>	Answer (Eastern services)	Answer (Northern services)
<i>1. Is the Sterile Services Department (SSD) based on-site or off-site?</i>	On-Site	On-Site
<i>2. Is the SSD run by the Trust or a private provider?</i>	Trust	Trust
<i>3. Is SSD operational for 24 hours?</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>4. How many staff is working in SSD? (excluding management)</i>	38 both full and part-time	23 including part-time
<i>5. Are instruments in a container or trays wrapped?</i>	Mixed	Container for Theatre use
<i>6. Is the method used your preferred option? If, not, briefly explain why?</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>7. How many trays were processed from April 2022 to November 22?</i>	85,030	16,377
<i>8. How many single instruments were processed from April 2022 to November 2022?</i>	62,627	28,297
<i>9. How many washer disinfectors?</i>	6	3

10. How many sterilisers?	4	4
11. Do you have a trolley washer?	No	No
12. If yes, what is it utilised for?	N/A	N/A
If you use reusable containers, answer questions 13-19 If you use disposable wrap, answer the questions 20-22		
13. Is the service fully containerised?	No	Yes, for Theatres
14. If not, why?	Cost & Storage	N/A
15. How are containers tested for sterility?	Via Independent Laboratory	Yes
16. How often are containers tested?	Annually	Annually
17. How often are containers replaced/damaged?	As required	As required
18. How many incidents were reported due to issues with rigid containers from April 2022 to November 2022?	None	None
19. If yes, did they lead to delays or cancellation of the procedure?	N/A	N/A
20. How many layers are used in wrapping trays?	2	2 (used for outsourced items)
21. How many incidents were reported due to torn wrap from April 2022 to November 2022?	543	None
22. If any, did they lead to delays or cancellation of the procedure and how many?	None	N/A
23. How many procedures were cancelled for clinical reasons from April 2022 to November 2022?	209	31
24. How many procedures were cancelled for non-clinical reasons from April 2022 to November 2022?	2006	594
25. What were the main 3 reasons for non-clinical cancellation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hospital - Other Reason for Cancellation 2. Hospital - No Ward Bed Available 3. Theatre Management - List Overran - Long Case/Too Many Cases 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hospital - Other Reason for Cancellation 2. Hospital - No Ward Bed Available 3. Theatre Management - List Overran - Long Case/Too Many Cases

<p><i>26. How many cancellations and delays were directly linked to SSD from April 2022 to November 2022?</i></p>	<p>No cancellations, 9x delays</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><i>27. What were the main 3 reasons link to SSD? (include total number for each reason)</i></p>	<p>Not ready for start of case. Loan items with external issues. Not requested ahead of case.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>28. Any health & safety incidents linked to the wrap or container?</i></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>N/A</p>