

## Hyper Acute Stroke Unit

---

Reference Number: RDF1871-23

Date of Response:09/10/23

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

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

*Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,*

*In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, please can you provide me with the following information:*

- 1. Does the trust have, or is the trust looking to obtain a HASU (Hyper Acute Stroke Unit) status?*

- a. If yes, what is the trust's HASU status?*

- b. If not, what is the trust's timeline to gain the HASU status?*

Answer: No, the Trust does not currently have a HASU status and has no active plans to obtain one at present. Further work is underway as part of integration priorities and as part of the peninsular acute sustainability programme. However, in effect we deliver most of the functionality of a HASU with BP control, haemorrhage reversal, thrombolysis and referral for thrombectomy.

- 2. How does the trust manage stroke litigation?*

Answer: As per the Trust Litigation Policy. The Trust has a legal department that manages legal claims in line with NHS resolution. Oversight of specialty specific claims is monitored and overseen through divisional governance processes.

- 3. What were the trust's costs for managing stroke litigation in the financial year 2022/2023?*

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information. For costs of stroke litigation, please forward this query to NHS Resolution via <https://resolution.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/>

- 4. How does the trust currently feed into the SSNAP (Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme)?*

Answer: The Trust engages fully with the SSNAP programme with monthly data returns on metrics measured. Eastern services have a Stroke Auditor who collates and inputs the data for return.

5. *What steps is the trust taking to improve its SSNAP score?*

Answer: As below.

- Quarterly SSNAP meetings to review progress and suggest actions.
- Bimonthly governance SSNAP updates
- Breech meetings and actions
- Thrombolysis meetings and actions
- MDT updates and actions at departmental meetings
- Ring fenced bed reinstated
- Benchmarking against current national guidelines to determine key risks and priorities
- Improved education for staff on swallow screen
- Business case approved to expand SNP role
- Enhanced recruitment efforts to recruit stroke specialty doctors
- Recent recruitment to Rehab support worker/stroke practitioner posts
- Trust request to meet recommended staffing levels
- Trust request to establish 7/7 service – ensure appropriate staffing resource
- Trust request to support Hospital Discharge Team presence and Social worker on the ward
- Review of group therapy on the Stroke Unit

6. *Does the trust have a 'sophistication index'? E.g. A sophistication index shows the trust's ability to approve and implement projects*

Answer: No.