

Prosthetic Knees

Reference Number: F4617
Date of Response: 20th July 2022

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response, in **blue bold text** below:

Request and Royal Devon's Eastern FOI Office Response

Topic 1: Users of prosthetic knees

- I. How many prosthetic knees have been prescribed to patients in your trust in the last financial year?

From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 a total of 28 prosthetic knee joints were prescribed to patients. In addition, a total of 26 prosthetic knees were prescribed to adult patients during that time period.

- II. How many prosthetic knees have been prescribed to patients in your trust in the four years preceding the last financial year?

From 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2022, a total of 179 prosthetic knee joints were prescribed to patients. Within this time period, 179 prosthetic knees were prescribed to adult patients.

We can confirm that this data for Paediatric patients is held by the Trust, however, In accordance with section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide these figures as the number of Paediatric patients prescribed with prosthetic knees above is less than five. Releasing this data could risk the identification of these patients. therefore this would breach Caldicott principles and principle One of the GDPR.

- III. Please categorise answers to I and II by age group e.g., 'number of prosthetic knees prescribed to 0-4 years olds is 'x' in the last financial year'
- Suggested age ranges (in years old) are 0-4, 4-14, 14-18, 18+.
 - If age ranges suggested in IIIa are not possible, please categorise by those aged under 14 years old and those older than 14 years old.
 - If IIIb is not possible, please categorise by paediatric versus adult prosthetic knees.

The above answers have been categorised by adult and paediatric.

Topic 2: Proxy measures to determine users of prosthetic knees

- I. How many lower limb amputations have taken place in your trust in the last financial year?

There are 59 recorded admission episodes between April 2021 and March 2022 where the following OPCS codes were recorded:

- Hindquarter amputation X09.1
- Disarticulation of hip X09.2
- Amputation of leg above knee X09.3
- Amputation of leg through knee X09.4
- Amputation of leg below knee X09.5

All the above patients were over 14 years old.

In accordance with section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we cannot provide numbers by level of amputation as some of the above OPCS code will include less than 5 patients. Releasing this data could risk the identification of these patients. therefore this would breach Caldicott principles and principle One of the GDPR.

The Trust cannot provide numbers by diagnosis leading to amputation as this would involve reviewing all ICD 10 codes recorded for each admission and then manually interpret those to determine under which suggested categories to count the patient. To provide you with the information requested under your questions (above) would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources which would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt. In addition to the above, the data for this request would contain high levels of personal data which would require multiple redactions, again, exceeding the appropriate cost limit

- II. How many lower limb amputations have taken place in your trust in the four years preceding the last financial year?

There were 230 admission episodes between April 2017 and March 2021 where them same OPCS codes were recorded. All patients were over 14 years old.

- IV. Please categorise answers to I and II by age group e.g., 'number of lower limb amputations in 0-4 years olds is 'x' in the last financial year'
- a. Suggested approach to age ranges given in 'Topic 1: question III'.

Please see the response and information for question I and II.

- III. Please categorise answers to I and II by level of amputation.
- Suggested levels of amputation are 'transtibial', 'knee disarticulation', 'transfemoral', 'hip disarticulation'.
 - Please ensure that it is possible to determine level of amputation for any given age group within the response.

Please see the response to question I.

- IV. Please categorise answers to I and II by diagnosis leading to amputation.
- Suggested categories could be traumatic, congenital, infection, etc.
 - Please ensure that it is possible to determine diagnosis leading to amputation for any given age group within the response.

Please see the response to question I.

Topic 3: Revision surgeries

- I. How many of those in your trust who have had a lower limb amputation return for revision surgery at any point, in the last financial year?

Within the cohort of patients that make up the count in Topic 2, question I, there were six patients that subsequently had revision surgery.

- II. What is the duration between the first operation and the revision surgery?
- An average with justification and ranges is acceptable.

For the six patients referred to in question I, the mean average number of days between lower limb amputation procedures and revision surgery was 52 days.

Topic 4: Prosthetic service engagement

- I. How long does a patient who is prescribed a prosthetic keep their device, before a newer one is prescribed?
- An average with justification and ranges is acceptable.

This is entirely patient dependent; however, patients are assessed, and componentry is prescribed with the long-term rehabilitation outcome in mind. Therefore, it is rare that prescriptions are changed.

- II. Please categorise answers to I by age group.
- An average with justification and ranges is acceptable.
 - Suggested approach to age ranges given in 'Topic 1: question III'.

- III. What are the most common reasons for a new knee prosthetic being prescribed for each age group?

The most common reasons are if a patient meets eligibility criteria for the MPK process and if a patient requires a higher or lower activity knee

joint as a result of improving/declining health, personal circumstances and rehabilitation outcomes.

- IV. How many knee prostheses does a child aged under 14 years old get prescribed in any one-year period, two-year period and five-year period.
a. An average with justification and ranges is acceptable.

On average, a child is prescribed three new sockets per year.

- V. How many knee prostheses does an adult aged over 18 years old get prescribed in any one-year period, two-year period and five-year period.
a. An average with justification and ranges is acceptable.

In general, an adult would only be prescribed one socket, unless circumstances change as per the answer to point III above.

- VI. How many individual knee prostheses are children prescribed at any one time by your NHS trust?
a. An average with justification and ranges is acceptable.

Children are prescribed with one knee prostheses at any one time.

- VII. How many individual knee prostheses are adults prescribed at any one time by your NHS trust?
a. An average with justification and ranges is acceptable.

Adults are prescribed with one knee prostheses at any one time.

Topic 5: Prosthetic knee market data

- I. What are the most commonly prescribed prosthetic knee brands and models in adults (those users aged >18 years old).
a. A ranking of the top 5 is acceptable.
b. Please also provide number of units dispensed for each brand/model.

Knee	Quantity
Single axis HOKL	34
Polycentric HOKL	18
Single axis SAKL	17
Polycentric hydraulic knee with manual lock	9
Single axis HOKL with flexion resistance	8

- II. What are the most commonly prescribed prosthetic knee brands and models in children (those users aged under 14 years old).
 - a. A ranking of the top 5 is acceptable.
 - b. Please also provide number of units dispensed for each brand/model.

The most commonly prescribed prosthetic knee brands for children from April 2017 to March 2022 were four bar polycentric mechanical knees and hydraulic free knees.

Topic 6: Financial enquiries

- I. How much did your trust spend on prosthetic knees in the last financial year?
- II. How much did your trust spend on prosthetic knees in the four years preceding the last financial year?
- III. Please categorise answers to I and II by age group e.g., 'Total spend on prosthetic knees prescribed to 0-4 years olds is '£x.xx in the last financial year'

We can confirm that this information is held by the Trust, however, under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to release the financial data as it is commercially sensitive due to the nature of the Trusts contracts. This information is exempt as its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Consideration has had to be given to ensure that the commercial interests of third parties are not prejudiced or undermined by disclosure of information which is not common knowledge. The disclosure of information relating to commercial matters could prejudice the business interests of the Trusts financial contracts.