

Drug Overdose Admissions

Reference Number: RDF1784-23

Date of Response: 14/09/23

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 1st 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,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, could you please provide me with the following information relating to the drug overdose admissions in your hospital.

- 1. The name of your Trust?*

Answer: Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

- 2. How many admissions related to drug overdose for year 2022 and from January to July 2023?*
- 3. What are the most common drug overdose cases admitted in your hospital?*
- 4. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level?*
- 5. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy?*
- 6. What is the average length of stay for those patients admitted for drug overdose in your ITU?*
- 7. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital?*

Answer: Please see table below.

	2022	January to July 2023
<i>2. How many admissions related to drug overdose for year 2022 and from January to July 2023?</i>	2,119	1,364
<i>3. What are the most common drug overdose cases admitted in your hospital?</i>	Unable to provide accurate response as 'type of drug' not consistently recorded in presenting complaint.	
<i>4. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level?</i>	730	449

5. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy?	31	21
6. What is the average length of stay for those patients admitted for drug overdose in your ITU?	4.3 days	2.4 days
7. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital?	*6	*≤5

*Question 7 - Please note the Trust cannot reliably identify if these patients died as a result of drug overdose, only that they had a presenting complaint / diagnosis of drug overdose and have a discharge method coded 'Patient died'.

In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases ≤5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.