

Title

Children's A&E Admissions/attendance with Symptoms of Allergic Reaction

Reference Number: RDF1918-23

Date of Response: 16/10/23

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 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).

1. Admissions to A&E of children aged under 18 with symptoms of allergic reaction (hives/vomiting/swelling/wheeze) or anaphylaxis who have either:

- a) been conveyed by ambulance from a school or education setting. Please see table below.
been admitted on a weekday during 8.30-4pm. Please see table below.
- b) Please also provide quantities of children then admitted to wards or ICU from this cohort. The Trust does not hold this information. Any under 18's requiring ICU level of care would be transferred to Bristol so we cannot provide figures for this

2. Please break down the information by year from 2016-present.

For each child, please clarify:

- a) their symptom category.
- b) whether they were conveyed or self-presented.
- c) whether they were admitted to ward

The Trust is unable to answer the above question for each child. The information is not held electronically. Trust staff would have to locate and review each child notes to try to answer the question. Given the volume of children, it would take trust staff over 18 hours to respond to this question.

As such the Trust issues a refusal notice for this question under Section 17 of the FOI Act. The following exemption is also applied:

Section 12 (1) – Time/Cost (over 18hrs work)

The Trust has considered your request, however, to provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources. To carry out this work would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting that information.

- d) [whether they were admitted to ICU, length of stay](#)
 The Trust does not hold this information. Any under 18's requiring ICU level of care would be transferred to Bristol so we cannot provide figures for this.

Admissions to A&E of children aged under 18 with symptoms of allergic reaction (hives/vomiting/swelling/wheeze) or anaphylaxis who have been admitted on a weekday during 8.30-4pm	Total
2016	61
2017	48
2018	54
2019	53
2020	65
2021	93
2022	113
2023	96
Whether they were conveyed or self-presented	Total
Conveyed	
2016	15
2017	9
2018	20
2019	14
2020	24
2021	22
2022	34
2023	26
Self-Presented	
2016	46
2017	39
2018	34
2019	39
2020	41
2021	71
2022	79
2023	70
Admitted to ward	Total
2016	13
2017	14
2018	14

2019	11
2020	21
2021	18
2022	28
2023	33