

Necrotising Fasciitis

Reference Number: RDF2065-23

Date of Response: 01/12/23

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,

I would like information on 'necrotising fasciitis', please could you provide me with the below information.

- 1. The number of patients admitted with necrotising fasciitis in the last 6 years, including: Patient's age, location of necrotising fasciitis, and patient comorbidities.*

Answer: Please see table below. 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authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Admission Year / Location of Necrotising Fasciitis	Number of Admissions per Age Group								
	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-79	80+
2018									
LOWER LEG	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5
MULTIPLE SITES	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
OTHER	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil
PELVIC REGION AND THIGH	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil
UNSPECIFIED	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2019									
ANKLE AND FOOT	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil
FOREARM	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5

LOWER LEG	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
MULTIPLE SITES	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
OTHER	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
PELVIC REGION AND THIGH	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
UNSPECIFIED	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil
2020	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-79	80+
ANKLE AND FOOT	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
LOWER LEG	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5
MULTIPLE SITES	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
OTHER	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
PELVIC REGION AND THIGH	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
2021	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-79	80+
ANKLE AND FOOT	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil
FOREARM	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
LOWER LEG	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	≤5	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil
MULTIPLE SITES	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
OTHER	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5
PELVIC REGION AND THIGH	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	Nil	≤5	Nil
UNSPECIFIED	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5
2022	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-79	80+
FOREARM	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
LOWER LEG	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
MULTIPLE SITES	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
OTHER	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil
PELVIC REGION AND THIGH	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil
UNSPECIFIED	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
2023	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-79	80+
FOREARM	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
LOWER LEG	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
MULTIPLE SITES	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil
OTHER	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil	≤5	Nil
PELVIC REGION AND THIGH	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	≤5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
UNSPECIFIED	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	≤5	Nil

The Trust has carefully considered your request for 'patient comorbidities', it is not expected and inappropriate for the Trust to review individual patient records to obtain/produce the information. In this instance the FOI question is exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (patient's personal data).

The question asks for very specific and focused details, and due to the low number of cases involved to provide this detail would create a potential for the patient(s) concerned to be identified and it is likely the Trust would be in breach of the Data Protection Act principles.

The Trust believes that the release of such sensitive information meets the definition of personal data and disclosing the information would contravene one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. As such release of the information would be likely to cause distress to the individuals concerned.