

Request title: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Date of Response: 5th October 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request

- How many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning have been treated in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015)?
- How many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning in children aged 0-18 have been treated in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015)?
- How many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning in adults aged 18-25 have been treated in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015)?
- How many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning in adults aged 60+ have been treated in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015)?

- How many cases have attended A&E in the past year with suspected carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many children aged 0-18 have attended A&E in the past year with suspected carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 18-25 have attended A&E in the past year with suspected carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 60+ have attended A&E in the past year with suspected carbon monoxide poisoning?

- How many cases have been treated in A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many children aged 0 - 18 have been treated in A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 18 - 25 have been treated in A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 60+ have been treated in A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning?

- How many cases have been admitted from A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning treatment?
- How many children aged 0 - 18 have been admitted from A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning treatment?
- How many adults aged 18 - 25 have been admitted from A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning treatment?
- How many adults aged 60+ have been admitted from A&E in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) for carbon monoxide poisoning treatment?

- How many people have died in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many children aged 0 - 18 have died in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 18 - 25 have died in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 60+ have died in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?

- How many people have been hospitalised in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many children aged 0 - 18 have been hospitalised in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 18 - 25 have been hospitalised in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?
- How many adults aged 60+ have been hospitalised in the past year (July 2014 - July 2015) due to carbon monoxide poisoning?

Reply

Further to your Freedom of Information request, please find below the requested data for the period 01/07/14 to 30/06/15.

It is not possible to answer all of the questions due to the data that is available on the electronic systems.

Regarding the Emergency Department data, the electronic system that the Trust uses has a 'presenting complaint' field which is a free text field and therefore the Trust is only able to supply details of patients that have the text 'carbon monoxide' in the presenting complaint. These patients may or may not have been diagnosed as having carbon monoxide poisoning. The national diagnosis codes are quite generic and do not break overdose and poisoning down to enough of a granular level to identify carbon monoxide poisoning. Please see the link below for details regarding the available national diagnosis codes.

link

With regards to the inpatient questions the Trust has supplied the number of admissions with a primary diagnosis of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Admissions with a primary diagnosis of Carbon monoxide poisoning - T58 (in admitting spell).

*Please note that this is a count of admissions and not patients - the same patient could have been admitted multiple times.

Age group	Total
0-18	0
18-25	Less than 5
60+	0
Total (all ages NOT sum of above)	Less than 5

How many of the above admissions died.

Age group	Total
0-18	0
18-25	0
60+	0
Total (all ages NOT sum of above)	0

Unplanned attendances to A&E with a presenting complaint containing the text 'carbon monoxide'

*Please note that this is a count of attendances and not patients - the same patient could have attended multiple times.

Age group	Total
0-18	8
18-25	6
60+	Less than 5
Total (all ages NOT sum of above)	29

How many of the above attendances died

Age group	Total
0-18	0
18-25	0
60+	0
Total (all ages NOT sum of above)	0

Where the number is less than 5, the Trust is not willing to give any further breakdown on this information due to the fact that this may well mean that any patients concerned may possibly be able to identify themselves if this information was released into the public domain, therefore the Trust is withholding this further breakdown of information under section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Trust considers that the information is exempt under section 41 (a+b) of the Freedom of Information Act. Please see the full Trust refusal notice below.

Section 41 refusal notice

41: Information is exempt information if –

- (a) It was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and*
- (b) The disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.*

Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act sets out an exemption from the right to know information, where the information requested was provided to the public authority in confidence with the expectation that the information would only be used/disclosed in accordance with the wishes of the confider. The information has been collected by the Trust in the course of the patients treatment and would form part of their health record, and the information contained within the health record would have been created as a result of information gathered with an expectation by the patient that it would be held in confidence.

On considering this, the Trust believes that in the context of health records, the responsibility of confidentiality is vital, as it reinforces and underpins the commitment of trust between patients and doctors, without which public confidence in the Trust may be damaged. Patients have a reasonable expectation that any information they provide will only be used to enable effective delivery of care and will be held under a duty of confidence. The ICO recognises in its guidance that section 41 will be particularly relevant to authorities holding information such as health records.

If there is a breach of confidence the confider or any other party affected may have the right to take action through the courts.

On considering the above points, the Trust has reached the conclusion that it will not divulge such information when there is no legal obligation to do so.