

Request title:
Serious Incidents Maternity

Date of Response: 20th January 2017

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

Request

1. How many Adverse Events* have been recorded in NHS maternity departments in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 to date (can I have this broken down in separate years, in financial or calendar years, however this information is held)?

a) please provide as much information as you can on these events.

2. How many Serious Incidents** have there been in NHS maternity departments in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 to date (can I have this broken down in separate years in financial or calendar years, however this information is held)?

a) please provide as much information as you can on these events.

b) how many serious incidents specifically involved avoidable or unexpected death for mother or baby during this period?

*By Adverse Event I include any event or circumstance arising that could have or did lead to unintended or unexpected harm, loss or damage to any individual or the Trust. Adverse events may or may not be clinical and may involve actual or potential injury, misdiagnosis or treatment, equipment failure, damage, loss, fire, theft, violence, abuse accidents, near misses or hazards.

**By serious incident I include acts or omissions in care that result in; unexpected or avoidable death, unexpected or avoidable injury resulting in serious harm - including those where the injury required treatment to prevent death or serious harm, abuse, Never Events, incidents that prevent (or threaten to prevent) an organisation's ability to continue to deliver an acceptable quality of healthcare services and incidents that cause widespread public concern resulting in a loss of confidence in healthcare services.

Reply

1. 2013 – 855
2014 – 1083
2015 – 1029
2016 – 881

a) Please note that we have provided a breakdown of categories for 2016 only, as to provide details for all years would take beyond the time limit under the Freedom of Information Act to process. To undertake this piece of work would take in excess of the appropriate limit set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The appropriate limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, the Trust is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to retrieve the above information (see section 12(1)) Freedom of Information Act 2000

Any incident categories containing numbers less than 5 have been put into the 'other' category, as the Trust feels that to provide a further breakdown of this information, could mean a patient, relative or member of staff could potentially identify themselves, and therefore the Trust is withholding this information under section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act, (please see full refusal notice below).

2016

Blood transfusion – 209
Communication – 51
Documentation & Records - 44
Inoculation injury – 19
Medical procedure complication – 22
Medication Complication – 15
Slips/Trips/Falls – 16
Staff Shortages – 12
Sub-Optimal Care - 10
Screening - 11
Patient (multiple incident categories) - 62
Other (multiple small categories) - 410

2. 2013 - 12
2014 - 9
2015 – Less than 5
2016 – 0

- a) Due to the low numbers involved, the trust is not willing to provide a further breakdown of this information. To do so could mean that a patient, or relative could potentially identify themselves and this could cause distress. Therefore we are withholding this information under Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 200 (please see full refusal notice below).
- b) Due to the low numbers involved, the Trust is not willing to provide a further breakdown of this information. This in turn would potentially mean that a patient could potentially identify themselves causing damage and distress. Therefore we are withholding this information under Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 200 (please see full refusal notice below).