

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3725

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to patients who have died in hospital while waiting for the start of a social care package 2016.

Q1: How many people in all the hospitals within your Trust have died in hospital awaiting the start of a package of local authority social care?

Q2: How many people in all the hospitals within your Trust have died in hospital awaiting the start of a package of continuing healthcare broken down by:

- Those that have been identified as meeting the fast track criteria*
- Those that have not been identified as meeting the fast track criteria*

Q3: What is the average time period in your Trust in hours/days from the point at which a fast-track CHC application is made to the care package being provided for the 12 month period to the end of September 2016?

What is the average time period in hours/days from the point at which a fast-track CHC application is approved to the care package being provided for the 12 month period to the end of September 2016?

Q1. In the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016, one patient died within this Trust awaiting a social services assessment for a possible increase in a package of care.

Q2. In the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016, we have identified:

- 28 patients who died in our Trust hospitals for whom Fast Track funding had been agreed. (These patients were delayed for reasons including: awaiting nursing home placements; awaiting package of care at home; next of kin viewing nursing homes.)

- 9 patients who died in our Trust hospitals for whom CHC funding (but not Fast Track) was approved (or awaiting CHC confirmation)
- 1 patient for whom CHC was declined

We do not have data available electronically for the time taken between the CHC application and the provision of care. However, the policies for processing CHC applications are as follows:

For Kent: Fast Track applications are processed within 48 hours
CHC (non Fast Track) applications are processed within 7 days

For East Sussex: Fast Track applications are processed within 72 hours
The policy for CHC (non Fast Track) applications is to process them within 14 days

Further Information:

- 1) This Trust collects delayed transfer of care data once a week as a snapshot on a Thursday. This data is used for statutory returns and for calculating bed days lost. The snapshot will not necessarily include all patients who had CHC or Fast Track funding and who subsequently died in the care of the Trust.
- 2) In order to identify patients who died whilst waiting for transfer, we have selected patients from the weekly snapshot lists who died before the next week's list was compiled.