

Maidstone and   
Tunbridge Wells

NHS Trust

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4525

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
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Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 9QQ

Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

8 March 2018

**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 clinical waste bag seals.

- *I would like to know what the trust currently uses to seal clinical waste bags and the annual quantity purchased (as well as the annual cost to the Trust if possible)?*
- *I would also like to know where the trust purchases these products from, i.e. is it direct from a supplier or from the NHS Supply Chain?*
- *Who is responsible for purchasing this product?*
- *How does the trust provide an audit trail for their clinical waste?*

Under Section 21 of the Act we are not required to provide information in response to a request if the information is already reasonably accessible to you. The majority of the information you requested is available from the trust website using the following link: <http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Security-Seals.-100118.pdf>

The tags are issued to departments, wards or clinical areas and the serial numbers are recorded of which set of tags has been issued to who. The tags provide an audit trail from the producer to the transfer station and subsequent disposal point. This means that if an issue is located at the transfer station or disposal point (prior to treatment/incineration) then the bag or container can be tracked back to the producing environment (ward or clinical area).

Further audit trails for clinical waste are the statutory requirements to maintain hazardous waste transfer notes and corresponding Hazardous Waste producer returns from the receiving site.

Our sites are fully compliant with the requirements to undertake annual pre acceptance audits and dangerous goods audit and these are undertaken by our Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor.