

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4809

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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 life support.

You asked:

Please could you answer the following questions regarding patients receiving life support?

A) The number of patients kept on life support for more than 28 days in 2015, 2016 and 2017?

B) The total cost of keeping patients on life support each year in 2015, 2016 and 2017?

Trust response:

The Trust cannot fully respond to all parts of the questions as our data is not aligned in the way the questions are asked. We collect organ support data, which groups several "life support" activities into one organ support category. Since invasive ventilation is the sole "life support" treatment for the organ support category "Advanced life support" we can obtain data on numbers of patients and numbers of days ventilated invasively. Non-invasive ventilation comes under the general umbrella of "basic respiratory support" but this category also includes patients at risk of deterioration, requiring 2 hourly respiratory physiotherapy or simply on O2 at 50% or more, therefore we are unable to just provide those on non-invasive ventilation as we can only search for organ support categories.

The Trust is also, therefore, not be able to provide costings per invasively ventilated patients since we only have costs based on groups of organs supports a patient receives. Ventilated patients may have other organ supports of varying types and numbers which would skew the figures. These are also virtual costs and do not represent actual expenditure per patient. Therefore please note this relates to Adult ICU patients across the trust only.

2015 – Number of patients ventilated (CCMDS advanced respiratory days) for >28 days = 3

2016 - Number of patients ventilated (CCMDS advanced respiratory days) for >28 days = 4

2017 - Number of patients ventilated (CCMDS advanced respiratory days) for >28 days = 5