

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3528

Please reply to:
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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 Bilirubinometer (Kernicterus).

1. *How many community midwives does your trust employ?*
2. *How many live births was your trust responsible for in financial year 2015/16?*
3. *How many bilirubinometers (device to measure bilirubin in the blood) does your trust have available for use by community midwives?*
4. *Where are your trust's bilirubinometers stored?*
5. *What training is provided to community midwives in the use of bilirubinometers?*
6. *How much does your trust spend per annum on purchasing bilirubinometers? Please provide figure for financial year 2015/16*
7. *Does your trust have a policy for treatment of neonatal jaundice?*
8. *If a policy exists how do you ensure community midwives are familiar with it and adhere to it when attending to babies in the community?*
9. *What is your average discharge time for babies and mothers following a live birth?*
10. *Do you record cases of brain damage caused by high bilirubin levels in babies with neonatal jaundice (kernicterus)?*
11. *If yes to the question above then please provide figures for the number of cases for all financial years where data is available.*
12. *How much compensation did your trust pay to children with brain damage caused by high bilirubin levels (kernicterus) for all financial years where data is available.*

1. The Trust employs a head count of 70 community midwives over the Maidstone, Tunbridge wells and relevant East Sussex area. As stated this is head count and not WTE so therefore will be variable depending upon turnover of staff.
2. This information can be found on the Trust website using the following link: <http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/> ID 3355
3. None, community midwives within this Trust do not use bilirubinometers; babies of concern are referred in for paediatric review.

4. On the Ward
5. Not applicable
6. The Trust spend money to replace any equipment that is not working-unable to provide exact answers.
7. Yes there is a policy for the treatment of neonatal jaundice.
8. Community midwives have access to all guidance as they use remote access tablets.
9. Policies are discussed at team meetings if there are any issues for clarity. As stated above midwives have ready access to the policy and also Health visitors although not our employees are also made aware of our Trust policy.
10. The Trust is not aware of any such cases
11. Not applicable
12. The response to your request is best confirmed by the NHSLA who manage negligence and other claims against the NHS in England on behalf of their member organisations. The link to the NHSLA website is below:
WWW.NHSLA.com