

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5585

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
Maidstone Hospital  
Hermitage Lane  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME16 9QQ  
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

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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 Pessary management.

*You asked:*

- 1. How many new pessaries are inserted in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice in the last year?*
- 2. How many pessaries are changed in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice in the last year?*
- 3. What are the training requirements for a pessary practitioner in your Trust/ CCG/Practice?*

*Please share any related competency or training documents*

- 4. Who provides pessary care in your Trust/ CCG/ Practice?*

Trust response:

1. At TWH GOPD we inserted 222 new pessaries. On Whitehead Women's Unit at Maidstone we inserted 87 new pessaries in 2019, and so far this year we have inserted 59 (up to 08/09/20)
2. We have no record of how many pessaries have been changed within the trust, and on most occasions the pessaries are removed cleaned and re-inserted, unless they are an incorrect size pessary or causing problems to the patient. If this is the case they are re-assessed and a new ring inserted.
3. Training requirements are different depending on whether it is a trainee doctor or a nurse. Doctors follow the RCOG training matrix. Nurses are supervised until they are deemed competent.
4. Consultant urogynaecologist  
Consultant gynaecologist  
Junior Doctor  
Specialist nurse  
Staff nurse  
Other – Physician Associate