

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8788

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

18 July 2024

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 Sodium Nitrite Poisoning.

You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.

1) Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust trained to recognise the symptoms of sodium nitrite poisoning?

2) Are A&E clinicians and nurses employed by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust trained to treat patients suffering with sodium nitrite poisoning with the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue?

3) Does the A&E department at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust routinely carry the antidote methylthioninium chloride commonly called methylene blue?

Trust response:

1 & 2. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust have clear guidance to use the NPIS (National Poisons Information Service) TOXBASE for any poisoning concerns. It has clear descriptions of the effects and treatment of Sodium Nitrate. In addition to this, sodium nitrate poisoning forms part of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine curriculum. All of the Consultants have passed the exams that you need to demonstrate knowledge of this curriculum. Although many of our staff would not have seen the effects of this rare poisoning they would all know to seek expert help with cases they are unfamiliar with.

3. Yes. Methylthioninium (Methylene Blue) 10 mg/ml 10 ml amps are stocked in both the Trust A&E departments.