

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-062024-000924

Date: 02/07/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My request concerns the practice and supervision of Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) within your Trust.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

1) Please confirm whether Anaesthesia Associates at your Trust engage in any clinical practices that fall outside the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RcOA) Scope of Practice document for AAs. If so, please provide specific details of these practices.

2) Please provide copies of key local governance documents, such as standard operating procedures (SOPs) or policy documents, that enable or govern the practice of Anaesthesia Associates outside the RcOA Scope of Practice.

3) Please provide information on the supervision arrangements for Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) within your Trust, including:

- The policy or guidelines governing the supervision of AAs. -**
- Any specific criteria or conditions under which AAs may work without direct supervision.**
- The number of clinical sessions or lists in the past 4 months where AAs have worked without direct supervision.**

Response

1) Please confirm whether Anaesthesia Associates at your Trust engage in any clinical practices that fall outside the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) Scope of Practice document for AAs. If so, please provide specific details of these practices.

Yes, our more experienced AAs do subtenon blocks and can build up to ASA 3 patients in day case, and induction with local supervision if certain criteria are met (see our guidelines for inclusion criteria).

2) Please provide copies of key local governance documents, such as standard operating procedures (SOPs) or policy documents, that enable or govern the practice of Anaesthesia Associates outside the RCoA Scope of Practice. - Please see attached

3) Please provide information on the supervision arrangements for Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) within your Trust, including:

- The policy or guidelines governing the supervision of AAs. – Please see attached

- Any specific criteria or conditions under which AAs may work without direct supervision. - They do 2:1 working as per guidelines. For subtenon blocks, they used to be supervised by the starred (floating) consultant (the ophthalmic consultants had agreed to supervise the block aspect, this was just for any other issues such as arrhythmias etc), but since the RCoA guidance that they should now be under 2:1 supervision for this, they now have 2:1 supervision for eye lists.

- The number of clinical sessions or lists in the past 4 months where AAs have worked without direct supervision. -- The number of clinical sessions or lists in the past 4 months where AAs have worked without direct supervision. They did 6 ophthalmic lists with ophthalmic surgeon (present in theatre) supervising the block aspect and starred consultant available for any patient issues (arrhythmias etc). This stopped in March when the RCoA stated all AA work should be 2:1 so since then all eye lists are supervised in a 2:1 capacity.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

FOI-062024-000924

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust