

Date: 03/03/2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 012623 – Formaldehyde and Formalin

1. How many reported incidents involving formaldehyde and/or Formalin have occurred in the last 3 years at your trust? Please provide numbers of staff and patients involved in such incidents - 17

2. How many reported illnesses or injury due to formaldehyde and/or formalin has your trust had? 4 staff

3. Has your trust ever been subject to legal proceedings due to exposure to formaldehyde and and/or formalin? Please supply numbers of incidents - 0

4. Does your trust have a policy or procedure in place to reduce exposure to formaldehyde and/or formalin in the treatment room setting whilst harvesting biopsy samples? If so please supply  
Theatres have a specimen management policy which gives some guidance on reducing splashing etc,

5. Does your trust have a policy to purchase the safest practicable solution to reduce harmful exposure to Formaldehyde and/or formalin? If so please supply details

No. The process/activity in which formalin/formaldehyde is used would be assessed in line with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 which the Trust would be required to:

Prevent exposure

Avoid using the hazardous substance for a safer process

Substitute the hazardous substance for a safe substance

Use the product in a safer form if possible e.g. solid instead of a gas

If this is not possible The Trust would apply the principles of good practice and look at ways in which we could introduce effective control measures.

Please note that responses are from January 2013 to December 2015 (3 years)

I request authorisation to share summarised elements of this response. In the aggregated summary we will not share personal information as I understand this would fall outside of the re-use of public sector information regulations. If you have any objections to this please clearly state your reasons for not wishing for your response to be shared. The Trust agrees to the information being shared anonymously but on condition that we receive a copy of the final report for our own records.