

Date: 04/07/2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 014841 – Incident and mortality rates for bowel ischemia

Following procedures set out on your website, I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 for the following information on each Hospital under your Health Trust:

1. Various incident and mortality rates for acute bowel ischemia for each year over the period 2007 - 2018 –
- **Please see attached spreadsheet
2. An explanation of how the rates have been calculated. - **Please see attached spreadsheet

Please note - **Questions 14 to 24 on the attached spreadsheet – There is no clinical code which would give this information, there are codes for bowel disorders but it does not determine if the condition is developed post op. The only way to get this level of detail would be to do an audit of patient notes but patients notes are not accessible under the FOI Act.

3. Details of the formal processes, procedures, pathways and other means of diagnosing acute bowel ischemia used by the hospital and its health professionals (including but not limited to those used by the surgical team, nurses, radiologists, intensive care)? - Acute Bowel ischemia is difficult to diagnose so therefore requires CT scanning, emergency laparoscopy and a diagnostic laparotomy to manage. Some of these patients are elderly and too frail to be operated on so sometimes don't get transferred to Surgery and remain under Medicine.
4. Details of any informal processes, procedures, pathways and other means of diagnosing acute bowel ischemia used by the hospital and its health professionals (including but not limited to those used by the surgical team, nurses, radiologists, intensive care)? - Clinical suspicion in high risk patients followed by the above.

The Trust also has an EmLap pathway to facilitate urgent diagnosis in suspected cases. Patients are referred to the surgical team and seen or expected to at least , within 30 minutes of referral.

** For a copy of the spreadsheet please e-mail dgft.foi@nhs.net quoting reference 014841