FOI 3445

Date 26/11/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

1. Please indicate your trust/hospital type and type of care:

Trust/Hospital Type:

Acute

1. Type of Care:

Secondary

1. Total Number of Beds: Please indicate the total number of inpatient beds in your hospital, including all types (e.g., general, ICU, maternity) if applicable.

1225

1. ICU/ITU Bed Count: How many beds are designated for intensive or high-dependency care?

28

1. Annual Admissions: Please provide the total number of patient admissions in the last calendar year. If exact figures are unavailable, please provide your best estimate.

190,991

1. Formal Procurement Policies: Does your hospital have formal policies or guidelines for medical equipment procurement?

Yes – please find attached

1. Designated Procurement Roles: Is there a designated individual or team responsible for managing the procurement of medical equipment? If yes, please provide the role(s) and a brief description of responsibilities.

Yes – Team - Clinical engineering & Procurement

1. Inventory Review Frequency: How often is your medical equipment inventory reviewed for excess or unused items?

Other (please specify) - Currently, we do not conduct regular audits specifically for unused or excess equipment. However, if any excess or unused items are identified, they are typically flagged by the relevant department or ward and reported to clinical engineering. Based on the condition and suitability of the equipment, these items may then be reallocated to other areas as needed. That said, instances of excess or unused equipment are quite rare.

1. Primary Sources for Procurement:

What are the primary sources for your medical equipment procurement?

NHS Supply Chain

Please indicate the proportion sourced from the NHS supply chain versus individual suppliers, and provide any additional details as applicable.

Do not have a detailed breakdown of the proportion obtained specifically from the NHS Supply Chain compared to individual suppliers

1. Excess/Expired Equipment:

What percentage of your medical equipment inventory was classified as excess, unused, or expired in the last 12 months?

Do not currently have a specific percentage or detailed breakdown of medical equipment classified as excess, unused, or expired over the past 12 months. Instances of such equipment are typically minimal and managed on a case-by-case basis, as identified by departments or clinical engineering.

Please provide a breakdown by equipment type, if available.

N/A

1. Disposal Responsibility: Is there a specific role or department responsible for overseeing the disposal of medical equipment? If yes, please provide the role(s) and responsibilities.

Yes – Department - Clinical Engineering Department

1. Formal Disposal Policy: Does your hospital have a formal policy for the disposal of medical equipment?

Yes – please find attached

1. Types of Commonly Disposed Equipment: Please specify the types of medical equipment most commonly disposed of due to expiry or non-use. Include examples and approximate percentages for each type, if possible.

Other (please specify) - The hospital rarely disposes of medical equipment due to non-use if the equipment still has usable life remaining. Disposal typically occurs when equipment reaches the end of its service life or becomes non-functional. Consequently, it is uncommon to have specific examples or percentages for items disposed of solely due to non-use.

1. Sustainability Initiatives: Does your hospital have a sustainability initiative for recycling, reuse, or redistribution of excess or unused medical equipment?

Yes (please provide details) - While there isn’t a formalized sustainability initiative, the hospital practices a case-by-case approach for recycling and redistributing excess or unused medical equipment. When a department identifies equipment that is no longer needed, it is assessed and, if appropriate, redistributed to other departments in need. Instances of such equipment are generally minimal and managed individually by the relevant departments or clinical engineering

1. Disposal of Excess or Expired Equipment: How does your hospital manage the disposal of excess, expired, or damaged equipment? Please provide a breakdown by disposal method and indicate the approximate amount (in tonnes) used per year for each method.

Other (please specify) - Equipment that is damaged, beyond economic repair, or at the end of its service (EOS) life is assessed by clinical engineering. If still operational with usable life remaining, the equipment is sent to auction. If deemed non-functional, it is disposed of in the WEEE skip.

1. Compliance with Disposal Guidelines: How does your hospital ensure compliance with national or NHS guidelines on the disposal and management of medical equipment?

Other (please specify) - By adhering to MHRA’s Managing Medical Devices guidelines and following manufacturer recommendations for the disposal and management of medical equipment.

1. Internal Audits of Equipment Management: Has your hospital conducted internal audits within the last 12 months to assess the management of excess medical equipment?

No

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If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

 Yours sincerely,

 *FOI Officer*

 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust