

## Freedom of Information Request

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**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.24.3540  
**Date Received:** 22 May 2024

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### Information Requested:

#### Background:

Due to various issues experienced or witnessed within the anaesthetic department when securing an airway I am working to define how patient safety is delineated around securing an airway and how standardisation can be improved to ensure the reduction of current incidents of failure and infection to patients.

When securing an airway an optimal endotracheal tube (ETT) securing device should provide maximum stability to prevent inadvertent movement or extubation, optimal ventilation, whilst maintaining patient comfort.

My aim is to build a picture of current practice aligned to patient harm and the cost to the NHS as a result of any poor practices by individual trusts.

I believe that the information I am requesting should be easily available through your Datix reporting system or similar if you don't use Datix.

#### Information request:

I would like to understand the number of reported incidences from January 2020 to December 2023, within the Trust of patient harm or even death because of poor airway management. These should include:

- Damage to a patient's skin when removing the surgical tape used to hold the airway device in place (if tape is used).
- Skin damage i.e. pressure sores as a result of using cotton ties to secure the airway.
- Death of a patient as a result of inadvertent movement or extubation whilst maintaining patient comfort.
- Death or cardiac arrests of patients due to undetected oesophageal intubation.
- Hospital acquired infection as a result of using tapes that are non-sterile.

### Response:

For context, Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust is a mental health and community provider of health services and does not have an anaesthetics department.

We do have some procedures, which are carried out under anaesthesia whereby the Trust contracts with our local acute partners to provide the service.

We have reviewed our incidents for the period of January 2020 to December 2023 and there are no reported incidents of this nature.

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**Publication Scheme:**

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>