

August 2011

For each hospital in your trust we would like to know:

1. The number of patients who developed pressure sores ('pressure necrosis injuries') in the 12 months between June 2010 - June 2011, or the last complete calendar year for which you hold data

A total of 1165 patients with pressure ulcers were treated in this Trust between 1 June 2010 and 31 May 2011.

Of this total 711 patients were admitted with a pressure ulcer and 454 patients developed a pressure ulcer whilst in the Trust. Please see the table below as to the grading and note that this covers all pressure ulcers.

2. The proportion of these pressure sores that were new, and had therefore occurred since admission to hospital (i.e. those developed in hospital).

As detailed in response to question 1 above, 454 patients developed a pressure ulcer whilst in the Trust of varying grades, just under 50% of these being no more than grade 1 ulcers.

3. A breakdown of the grading for these pressure sores - how many fell into which grade category.

Please see the table below detailing the pressure ulcers, by grade which were inherited by the Trust (i.e. patients that were admitted with them) and those which were reported as having developed whilst in hospital.

Pressure Ulcers by Month and Grade for the 12 months from 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011

| Month | G1 inherited | G1 developed | G2 inherited | G2 developed | G3 inherited | G3 developed | G4 inherited | G4 developed |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Jun | 17 | 13 | 28 | 18 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Jul | 28 | 19 | 22 | 18 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Aug | 26 | 16 | 32 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Sept | 23 | 16 | 32 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Oct | 20 | 27 | 29 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Nov | 25 | 21 | 31 | 22 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Dec | 18 | 22 | 40 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Jan | 32 | 18 | 45 | 25 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Feb | 9 | 18 | 34 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Mar | 14 | 18 | 33 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Apr | 17 | 17 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| May | 18 | 18 | 40 | 25 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Total | 247 | 223 | 394 | 225 | 65 | 3 | 50 | 3 |

4. The number of patients admitted from residential or nursing homes with pressure sores.

A total of 169 patients admitted from residential or nursing homes with pressure ulcers.

5. The number of death certificates in this period on which pressure sores were mentioned.

We may hold the information requested, but the information contained on each death certificate is not recorded centrally. This information would be held by the registrar of deaths. Therefore, to locate, retrieve and extract the information would involve going through each individual death certificate to ascertain if it included reference to a pressure ulcer or ulcers having been a contributory or main cause of death. We have estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to manually check each the contents of all death certificates and that the associated cost would therefore exceed the appropriate fee limit of £450 set out under Freedom of Information & Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007.

The fee limit specified in regulations for NHS trusts represents the cost of one person spending 2½ working days at a rate of £25 per hour determining whether the Trust holds the information sought and then locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

Having regard to section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act in circumstances where the fee limit is likely to be exceeded the Trust is not obliged to respond to the request. Accordingly, we are sorry but on this occasion we will not be processing this part of your request further.

However, having searched our incident reporting database and discussed with our Tissue Viability (wound management team) and Safeguarding Lead they are aware of less than five death certificates having been completed which included reference to a pressure ulcer or ulcers which may have been a contributory cause of death.