

November 2011

*I understand that two procedures are now regularly used in the treatment of urinary incontinence, namely:*

- a. Injections of Botulinum toxin type A preparations*
- b. Posterior tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS)*

*Please would you tell me the number of patients you currently have who are undergoing one or other of these two courses of treatment. I would also like to know if there are any other “competitive” treatments being used by you. If so, what they are and the number of patients currently undergoing such courses of treatment.*

*Thus the data required is as follows, for urinary incontinence treatment:*

<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Number of Patients Currently undergoing a Course of Treatment</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Botulinum toxin type A Injections</i>		
<i>Posterior tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS)</i>		
<i>Other 1 – please specify</i>		
<i>Other 2 – please specify</i>		

The Trust currently carries out the following procedures for the treatment of urinary incontinence:

- Mid-urethral slings (female), including Tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) and Transobturator tape (TOT)
- Male perineal slings
- Artificial urinary sphincter
- BOTOX bladder – this procedure is carried out for incontinence due to overactive bladder, as well as for urinary tract symptoms without incontinence.

Per year, the number of procedures carried out are as follows:

- Mid-urethral slings (female), including TVT and TOT tapes = 20–25 per year.
- Male perineal slings = only 1 procedure ever done at Southend Hospital.
- Artificial urinary sphincter = 1–3 per year.
- BOTOX bladder = 20-25 per year, but most of these are for urinary tract symptoms rather than incontinence due to overactive bladder, this information is not recorded separately.

We may hold the information requested for the number of BOTOX bladder procedures which were carried out, but we do not record information separately if the procedure was specifically for the treatment of incontinence. Therefore to retrieve and collate it would involve going through each individual patient record to ascertain if the BOTOX bladder procedure was carried out, and for which medical condition. We have estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate all the information you have requested 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.