

Date: 23/04/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8579

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ALLOY CLIPS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to alloy clips used within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Since May 2000 what rules/guidance/protocols have NHS Lothian had in place to ensure that the serial numbers of titanium/titanium alloy clips used to repair ruptured brain aneurysms are recorded in patients' notes and/or elsewhere for future reference?
2. Do NHS Lothian's current rules/guidance/protocols differ in any way from the rules/guidance/protocols that were in place in May 2000 in relation to ensuring that the serial numbers of titanium/titanium alloy clips used to repair ruptured brain aneurysms are recorded for future reference?
3. Can I view NHS Lothian's current rules/guidance/protocols in relation to recording these serial numbers?

Answer:

All Titanium Clip's / any implants are recorded in The Operating Book and documented in the Care Plan.

Information stickers from the Manufacturer include REF / LOT Size date and expiry date with bar code. All Operating books are kept for 7 years.

No written protocol as this is standard practice with any implantable item / device. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold a protocol or guidance.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the

Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive