Lothian NHS Board

Lothian NHS Board
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Date 19/12/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10729

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ECTOPIC PREGNANCY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ectopic pregnancies.

Question:
1. *What is the annual number of patients you see in your unit with an early pregnancy complication?*

Answer:
We have no specific field for early pregnancy complication, while we have reason for referral to Triage or PSC these are wide ranging. If you can provide a list of what you are meaning then we might be able match this up against our lists

Question:
2. *How many patients were diagnosed as an ectopic pregnancy?*

Answer:
There were 155.

Question:
3. *How many patients were treated as a pregnancy of unknown location?*

Answer:
This is not possible due to the complexity of the request, scan data does not sit in Maternity TRAK meaning there would be a manual match up process for every pregnancy in the time period that attended Triage

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:
4. *Of the PUL group, how many patients went on to be confirmed as an ectopic pregnancy?*

Answer:
As per response to question 3.

Question:
5. *Number of reported patient safety incidents related to ectopic pregnancy?*

Answer:
There were 6 adverse events (incidents) reported on DATIX relating to ectopic pregnancy between 01 January 2023 to 01 January 2024.

Question:
6. *For each incident, please specify degree of harm:*
   - *No harm*
   - *Near miss*
   - *Low*
   - *Moderate*
   - *Severe*

Answer:
The table below is broken down by Severity (level of harm) and Sub Category.

	Communication	Delay in diagnosis	Failure/delay/ wrong diagnosis	Wrong diagnosis	Other - Please only use if no alternative
No known adverse effect at this time	≤5	≤5	0	0	≤5
Harm to a person -minor	0	0	≤5	≤5	0
Harm to a person - moderate	0	≤5	0	0	0

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:
7. *For each **moderate**/severe incident, please specify details (e.g. late diagnosis, haemorrhage, etc).*

Answer:

There was 1 moderate harm adverse events reported under the Sub Category **Delay in diagnosis**, therefore less than 5. There were no severe (Major Harm/Death) adverse events reported.

Question:

8. *How many moderate/severe incidents went on to be declared as a serious incident?*

Answer:

There were no Level 1 moderate/severe adverse events reported.

Outcome Codes

1	**Appropriate care** - The adverse event review concluded that the care and/or service was well planned and appropriately delivered; no care or service delivery problems were identified; and the adverse event outcome was ultimately unavoidable. However, it is likely there are still learning points (especially good practice points).

Question:

9. *What was the learning for the serious incidents if any?*

Answer:

There were no Level 1 moderate/severe adverse events reported.

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
Cc: Chief Executive