Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG
www.nhslothian.scot

Date 10 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11586

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – LAPAROSCOPIC PROCEDURES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to laparoscopic procedures.

Question:
1. Procedure Volume
   a) How many laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedures were performed within your Trust during the most recently completed financial year?

Answer:
There were 781 cases - data pulled from Discovery - National Dashboard

Question:
2. Instrument Tray Composition
   a) Please provide the current instrument inventory list(s) for the standard laparoscopic cholecystectomy instrument tray(s) used within your Trust.
   b) If more than one laparoscopic cholecystectomy tray configuration is used within the Trust, please provide the inventory list for each version.
   c) Does the Trust use surgeon preference cards or procedure-specific pick lists for laparoscopic cholecystectomy? If yes, please provide any standard template used
   d) Please indicate whether the inventory lists supplied represent: Standardised trust wide trays
   - A standardised Trust-wide tray;
   - Site-specific trays; or
   - Consultant/surgeon-specific trays.

Answer:

a.	1 x General Lap tray, 1 x General MIS tray and 1 x 30 degree scope / SJH used a small basic Code SJG 001 and 1 x Mis Tray code GS155
b.	N/A
c.	No standard template
d.	Standardised trust wide trays

Question:
3. Tray Standardisation

NHS Lothian

a) Does the Trust have a formal policy, guideline, or standard operating procedure relating to laparoscopic cholecystectomy instrument tray composition?
If yes, please provide a copy.

b) Has the Trust undertaken any review, rationalisation, optimisation, or redesign of laparoscopic cholecystectomy instrument trays within the last five years?
If yes, please provide any reports, summaries, business cases, or recommendations that are held.

Answer:

a.	No
b.	No

Question:

4. Reusable and Disposable Instrumentation
   a) Does the Trust routinely use reusable laparoscopic instruments for laparoscopic cholecystectomy?
   b) Does the Trust routinely use disposable single-use laparoscopic instruments for laparoscopic cholecystectomy?
   c) Please provide any existing inventory or documentation identifying which components are reusable and which are single-use.
   d) Does the Trust routinely use disposable/single-use ports or reuseable ports?

Answer:

a.	Yes
b.	No
c.	Not available
d.	Yes

Question:

5. Sterilisation and Tray Processing
   a) How many instrument trays or sterilisation containers are routinely opened for a standard laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure?
   b) Are trays supplied in:
   - Reusable rigid sterilisation containers;
   - Sterile wrap systems; or Sterile wrap
   - Both?

Answer:

a.	3
b.	Sterile wrap systems

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Question:

6. Sustainability Initiatives

a) Has the Trust undertaken any sustainability-related initiative specifically relating to surgical instrument trays, reusable instrumentation, waste reduction, or operating theatre environmental impact within the last five years?
If yes, please provide any reports, presentations, business cases, or policies held.

Answer:

NHS Lothian has an active programme of sustainability work guided by our Sustainable Development Framework published in 2020 and updated in 2023. We report annually on this activity including sustainability performance data. With regards to the specifics of this request these reports include details of our progress on:

- The Green Theatres programme ('Sustainable Care' section)
- Waste figures by volume and carbon emissions breakdowns of waste by type ('Waste & Circular Economy' section)

The Sustainable Development Framework and annual reports are available at:

https://org.nhslothian.scot/sustainability/key-documents-publications/

NHS Lothian is always working to identify and take action on waste reduction opportunities. Since the latest published reports we have also:

- Reduced plastic waste from milk bottles across our ward catering operations by 88.9%
- Rolled out a uniform reuse and recycling programme, resulting in diverting 1.7 tonnes of textiles from incineration and reusing more than 1,600 uniform items in the first year

Information on both these initiatives is in the attached documents.

With respect to surgical instrument trays and reusable instrumentation, the Board's work on the 'lean surgical trays' strand of the Green Theatres programme commenced earlier this year (2026). This is now an active area of activity and while progress has been made, specific results are still being calculated and are not yet available. When they are ready later in the year they will be published on NHS Scotland's Centre for Sustainable Delivery (CfSD) website alongside progress by other Scottish Health Boards.

https://nhscfsd.co.uk

The rational underpinning the lean surgical tray work is set out the 'Implementing lean surgical trays' document published by the CfSD which includes details of expected carbon savings.

https://nhscfsd.co.uk/media/w4mbzqxh/ngtp-lean-surgical-trays-v1-july-2024.pdf

Further information on lean surgical trays is available on the CfSD's 'Actions for Implementation' page at:

NHS Lothian

https://nhscfsd.co.uk/our-work/green-healthcare-scotland/national-green-theatres-programme/actions-for-implementation/

Further queries on topics in this request can be sent to loth.sustainability@nhs.scot.

Question:

7. Photographic or Layout Documentation
   a) Does the Trust hold a tray map, instrument layout guide, tray photograph, or equivalent document for laparoscopic cholecystectomy trays?
   If yes, please provide a copy.

Answer:

See enclosed.

Question:

8. Sterilisation and Reprocessing Costs
   a) Does the Trust hold information on the cost of sterilisation, decontamination, reprocessing, or preparation of laparoscopic cholecystectomy instrument trays?
   If yes, please provide:
   - The most recent estimated cost per tray sterilisation/reprocessing cycle.
   - The methodology used to calculate this cost.
   - The date of the most recent calculation.

Answer:

Not specifically for laparoscopic trays

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.

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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

The catering department are committed to sustainability, waste reduction and reduced carbon emissions.

Food and drink packaging accounts for a significant source of avoidable waste across our healthcare facilities.

Milk bags require substantially less packaging material per litre compared to cartons.

Lighter and more compact packaging improves transport efficiency and lowers carbon emissions .

Milk jugs (to hold the pouches) will be delivered to wards this Friday afternoon (30th) with the lunch trolleys and bagged milk will commence the following Monday (2nd Feb.)

We thank you in advance for your cooperation .

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Uniform Reuse & Recycling Programme

Background

A simple staff suggestion has sparked a meaningful shift in how NHS Lothian manages uniforms. What was once a largely unseen and informal activity has been transformed into a structured, sustainable approach to reuse and recycling. Previously, there was no formal process for handling end-of-life uniforms and most items were disposed of as general waste, incurring an environmental and financial cost.

Uniforms remain NHS Scotland property throughout their lifecycle. Staff are therefore required to return them when no longer needed. Additionally there are considerations specific to NHS Scotland logoed garments for both patient and staff safety. These measures require removing logos and cutting garments to prevent misuse and sending heavily contaminated items to clinical waste.

The Change

Following discussions with the Head of Soft FM and Area Managers, a pilot was launched across two sites: the hospital sewing room that originated the idea and one of NHS Lothian's larger facilities. The pilot informed the development of a Standard Operating Procedure, providing a clear and consistent framework for rollout. Momentum built quickly, with the remaining three sewing rooms joining shortly thereafter. The process is now fully embedded and supported across NHS Lothian through publicity by the Communications Team to ensure staff awareness and understanding.

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THE WEEKLY BRIEF

For ease of access, please print and leave in staff areas for colleagues.

ISSUED: 14 May 2026

Sewing team launches uniform recycling programme

All Staff Update

Until recently, uniforms that were no longer required were routinely destroyed and disposed of as general waste. A pilot led by teams at the Western General Hospital and the Royal Edinburgh Hospital has shown there is a better way. Sewing rooms in Health and Social Care, St John's Hospital and Royal Infirmary also joined the pilot, demonstrating that the approach works across NHS Lothian.

By recycling and refreshing worn-out uniform items through existing NHS Lothian Laundry arrangements, the pilot avoided general waste, reduced environmental impact and reduced costs - all using existing staff, systems and transport. Thousands of items have been successfully processed without disruption, demonstrating that this approach is practical and sustainable.

Recycling of uniforms will now be rolled out across all NHS Lothian sewing rooms.

What you need to do

When you no longer need a uniform - for example when leaving NHS Lothian or if it becomes unserviceable - **please return it to your line manager, or directly to a hospital sewing room** (if issued from there).

Do not dispose of uniforms yourself. Sewing rooms will assess items for reuse or recycling, ensuring NHS property is managed responsibly and sustainably.

Uniforms remain the property of NHS Scotland for the duration of their use up until disposal – this is for patient safety to ensure only NHS Scotland colleagues wear these uniforms.

Returned uniforms are assessed and items in good condition are cleaned and returned to stock for reissue. Garments that are no longer suitable are rendered unusable and redirected into a dedicated textile recycling stream via NHS Lothian's Laundry.

What's notable is that reuse was already happening through the initiative of individual sewing rooms. The key change was making the process more visible to staff and redirecting worn-out uniforms away from general waste and into a more sustainable recycling route.

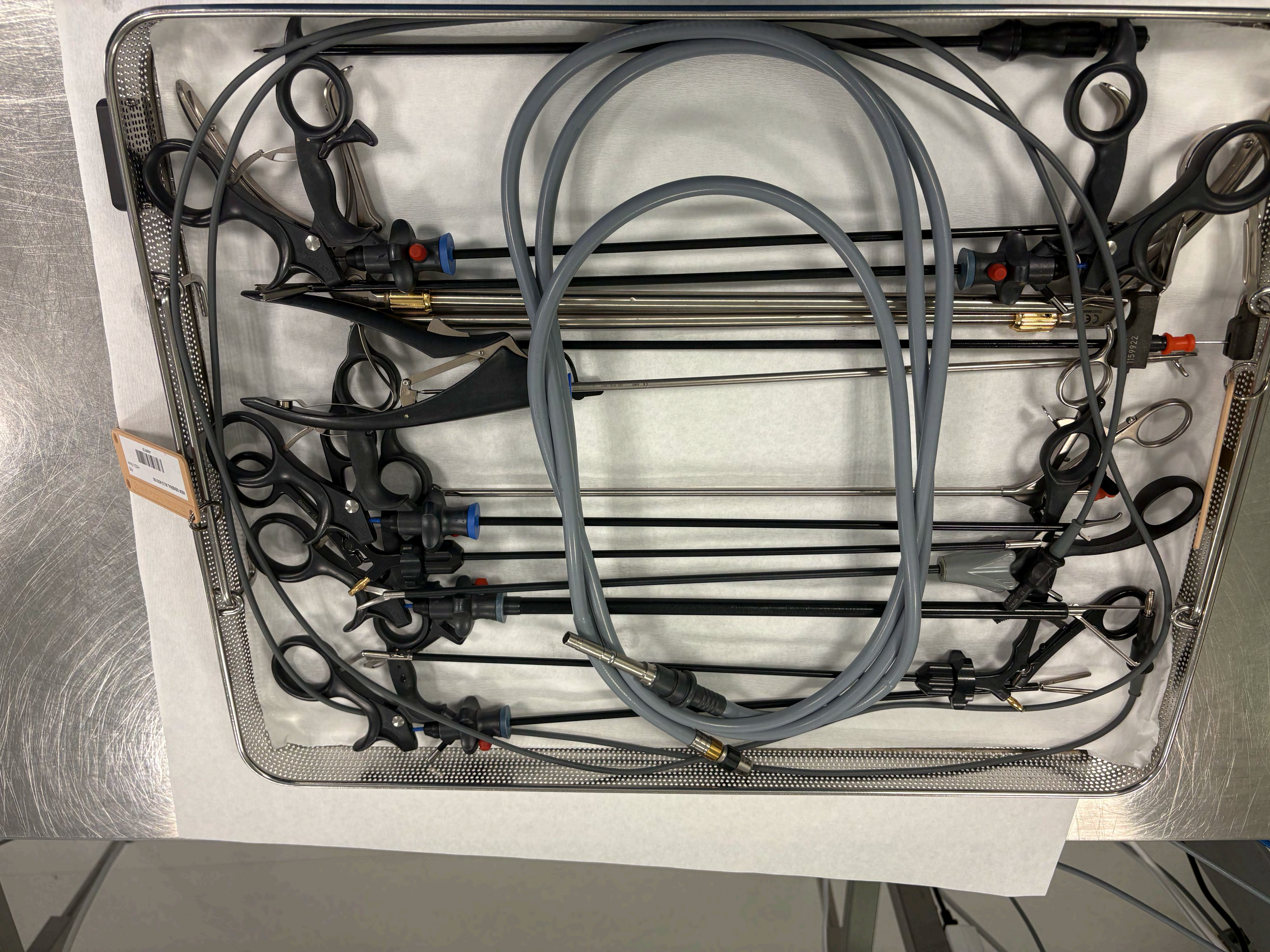
Activity is now tracked through a Tableau dashboard, providing clear visibility of cost savings, reuse rates, and environmental impact.

Evaluation & Impact

The success of the programme rests largely with front-line teams. The Environmental Sustainability Team supported the change through communication, coordination and development of the SOP, and managers provided oversight and authorisation. However it was sewing room teams and the laundry who played a pivotal role in putting the process into practice.

During the pilot year over 1.7 tonnes of textiles, over 5,000 uniform items, were diverted from incineration. **More than 1,600 uniform items were successfully reused, generating approximately £9,300 in cost avoidance**.

Importantly, this initiative highlights a wider opportunity: similar practices may already exist across NHS Scotland yet remain unrecognised. By documenting and sharing these efforts, organisations can bridge the gap between informal innovation and formal processes resulting in wider uptake and improved processes. This is more than a recycling initiative, it's a demonstration of how grassroots ideas, when supported, can evolve into sustainable system-wide improvements.


1159922

Set report

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

NEW GENERAL M.I.S #GS155
A069732

Expired 00-00-0000
GENERAL SURGERY

Fixed location RIE HSDU STORE
Fixed containers A069732
Patient Number: _____

T Qty	A Qty	Description	PRE OP CHECK	POST OP CHECK	DECON ROOM CHECK
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC FORCEPS DEBAKEY 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC FORCEPS STANDARD 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC FORCEPS CLAW 10MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC FORCEPS MARYLAND 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC SCISSORS METZENBAUM 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC SCISSORS HOOK 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC GRASPER D SHAPED HANDLE 5MM X 315MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC NEEDLEHOLDER CURVED LEFT 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC FORCEPS CLAW 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC FORCEPS JOHANN 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	CHOLANGIOGRAPHY CLAMP 5MM X 330MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC CLIP APPLIER LIGACLIP MEDIUM/LARGE CLIPS	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC CLIP APPLIER LIGACLIP LARGE CLIPS	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LAPAROSCOPIC ELECTRODE HOOK MONOPOLAR 5MM X 340MM	☐	☐	☐
1	1	HIGH FREQUENCY CORD MONOPOLAR 4MM PLUG X 3M	☐	☐	☐
1	1	LIGHT CABLE OLYMPUS WA03310A	☐	☐	☐

STERILE A/C No 18
DO NOT USE IF DAMAGED
LOT 11475
RIE H.S.D.U. EDINBURGH EH16 4SU
USE BY 19.05.27
TEL: 0131 242 6100

HEALTH EDGE SOLUTIONS LIMITED

2026/05/19	2027/05/19	
W't 2.1 Kg		STERILE

Store in clean dry conditions. DO NOT USE if wrap damaged.
ONLY for use by trained personnel - for its intended purpose.

HSDU Store

GALLBLADDER

GS012

ID No A000572

Hospital Sterilising&Disinfection Unit,
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh,Little France,Old Dalkeith Road
, Edinburgh, EH16 4SA, United Kingdom, 0131 242 6122

GALLBLADDER
ID: A000572
2026.05.19 GS012
Hospital Sterilising&Disinfection

48W
BILITY SYSTEMS 3/96

Nexus Sterile Services

Tuesday, 19 May, 2026 13:30

Hospital Sterilising&Disinfection Unit,

GS012

GALLBLADDER

Tray No: A000572

List Version: 11

Patient Number _____

Qty	Pre Op Check	Description	1st Check	2nd Check
1	☐	BASKET DIN 1 x 1	☑	☐
1	☐	WRAP QUICK CHECK H400 91CM x 91CM	☑	☐
1	☐	INSTRUMENTS SET FROM LEFT TO RIGHT	☑	☐
1	☐	TROCAR & CANNULA OSCHNER FG 14	☑	☐
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 4/7	☑	☐
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 5/8	☑	☐
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 6/9	☑	☐
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 7/10	☑	☐
1	☐	FORCEPS GALLSTONE MAINGOT SHAPE B	☑	☐
1	☐	FORCEPS GALLSTONE MAINGOT SHAPE C	☑	☐
2	☐	FORCEPS GALLSTONE DESJARDINS 22cm	☑	☐
2	☐	FORCEPS ARTERY O'SHAUGHNESSY CURVED 20cm	☑	☐
1	☐	FORCEPS CHOLECYSTECTOMY WILKIES CURVED 19cm	☑	☐
1	☐	NEEDLEHOLDER NAUGHTON MORGAN 10"	☑	☐
1	☐	SCISSORS METZENBAUM CURVED 9"	☑	☐
1	☐	HANDLE BARD PARKER No 3L	☑	☐
1	☐	SCOOP GALLSTONE CHEATLES WITH HOOK END	☑	☐
1	☐	SUPASORB TRAY LINER	☑	☐
1	☐	TAG WITH BAR CODED ID LABEL	☑	☐

Extra Instruments *Theatre Staff: Please use this space to note any extra instruments used within this set*

CSSD/TSSU

Reassembled By: _____

Packed By: Daroine

Date: _____

THEATRE

Scrub Assistant: _____

Circulating Person: _____

Theatre Case No: _____ AM /PM

Date: _____

TrayNote

Nexus Sterile Services

Hospital Sterilising&Disinfecti

GS012

GALLBLADDER

Qty	Pre Op Check	Description
1	☐	BASKET DIN 1 x 1
1	☐	WRAP QUICK CHECK H400 91CM x 9
1	☐	INSTRUMENTS SET FROM LEFT TO
1	☐	TROCAR & CANNULA OSCHNER FG
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 4/7
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 5/8
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 6/9
1	☐	BOUGIE LISTERS SIZE 7/10
1	☐	FORCEPS GALLSTONE MAINGOT S
1	☐	FORCEPS GALLSTONE MAINGOT S
2	☐	FORCEPS GALLSTONE DESJARDIN
2	☐	FORCEPS ARTERY O'SHAUGHNES
1	☐	FORCEPS CHOLECYSTECTOMY W
1	☐	NEEDLEHOLDER NAUGHTON MOR
1	☐	SCISSORS METZENBAUM CURVE
1	☐	HANDLE BARD PARKER No 3L
1	☐	SCOOP GALLSTONE CHEATLES W
1	☐	SUPASORB TRAY LINER
		TAG WITH BAR CODED ID LABEL

Extra Instruments *Theatre Staff: Please use*

CSSD/TSSU

Reassembled By:

Packed By: Dorothy

Date:

TrayNote

HEALTH EDGE
SOLUTIONS LIMITED
10-07-2026
10-07-2027
134° POROUS
STERILE
Store in clean dry conditions. DO NOT USE if wrap is damaged
ONLY for use by trained personnel - for its intended purpose.
RIE HSDU STORE
NEW GENERAL M.I.S #GS155
+A069732
147992
HSDU Royal Infirmary Edinburgh
51 Little France Crescent, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 4SA
0131 242 6122