

Freedom of Information Request**Ref: UHB 17-491**

Date 9 November 2017

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

1) Which make and model of Positive Air Pressure (PAP) machines does your Trust provide to patients suffering from sleep apnoea?**a. As standard?**

The Trust uses Phillips-Respironics autoCPAP devices as standard, however there are patients on different models, due to upgrades and change in device specifications over time.

b. For any circumstances where the patient is deemed to need additional features to the standard machines your Trust provide (eg APAP, BiPAP or any other type of machine instead of CPAP)?

When a patient is deemed to have Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome, and in conjunction with the ERS Position statement in dealing with this condition a patient may be transferred onto Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV). Similarly where a patient may have overlap syndrome, such as COPD + OSA, NIV may be more appropriate. The other group of patients are those who have been formally assessed for Cheyne-Stokes respiration where they may, depending on the relevant applied criteria, be changed from CPAP or NIV to Auto-Servo Ventilation (ASV). There are other patients where CPAP has been tried and NIV may be more appropriate in the light of changing co-morbidities etc. The important point here is that patients may be moved from CPAP to NIV/ASV, but this requires careful clinical and scientific assessment and would be undertaken on a case-by-case basis only.

2) Which make and model of Positive Air Pressure (PAP) masks does your Trust provide to patients suffering from sleep apnoea?**a. As standard?**

We use masks provided by Phillips-Respironics, ResMed UK and F&P, as principal suppliers. We use nasal, nasal-oral, oral, nasal-pillows and full-face type masks in order to optimize the patient to CPAP interface and to improve adherence with CPAP treatment. We use a range of masks and differing models depending on the patient. We do occasionally use other supplier's masks, but these are very few and far between.

b. For any circumstances where the patient is deemed to need additional features to the standard masks your Trust provide?

The Trust will use chin straps where certain formats of masks may result in a lower jaw dropping open, and where a nasal-oral type mask is not necessarily appropriate on physiological or anatomical grounds. Where patients have nasal bridge problems, we may use barrier cream, gel plasters etc. to avoid skin lesions. Where patients have nasal passage issues, and there is a logical scientific and clinical reasoning for providing it, we may prescribe nasal sprays.

3) From where does your Trust purchase the machines provided to patients?

a. Direct from manufacturer?

NHS Supply chain

b. Through a third party supplier?

NHS Supply Chain

4) From where does your Trust purchase the masks provided to patients?

a. Direct from manufacturer?

NHS Supply Chain

b. Through a third party supplier?

NHS Supply chain

5) How much does your trust pay per unit for the model(s) of PAP machines you supply?

The Total cost of PAP machines between July 2016 and July 2017 was £7,182.00.

We are unable to provide the price per unit as this is commercially sensitive information.

Section 43 of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. Therefore; we are withholding this information at this time.

6) How much does your trust pay per unit for the model(s) of PAP masks you supply?

The Total cost of PAP masks between July 2016 and June 2017 was £ 721,696.61.

We are unable to provide the price per unit as this is commercially sensitive information.

Section 43 of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. Therefore; we are withholding this information at this time.

7) How many new PAP machines has your Trust supplied to patients for each of your last three fiscal years?

| 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1133 | 1221 | 1276 |

The figures above refer to patient's set-up on CPAP, and may include a very small number of patients transferred on NIV/ASV after initial CPAP set-up.

8) How many patients in total does your Trust currently provide PAP machines and accessories to?

Since July 2007, the Trust has issued 11661 patients with CPAP.

Please note this figure includes patients who have returned CPAP, who are now dead, who have progressed to NIV/ASV, who have been discharged due to continuous lack of engagement, etc. We are unable to provide the number of PAP machines currently issues as this require a manual trawl for information which would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time

9) How often do you review patient use of their machine and accessories in an outpatient appointment?

CPAP reviews should be undertaken on an annual basis as a minimum. However, some patients may need to be seen before a routine annual review due to adherence issues and some based on the decisions of the consultant clinical staffs at the time of set-up.

When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in disclosing information to facilitate accountability and transparency in the spending of public money.

There is a public interest in ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly.

There is also a public interest in ensuring that this is competition for public sector contracts.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information

Against disclosure is that the release of the requested information is commercially sensitive in that disclosing this information would reduce the number of companies willing to do business with the public sector, leading to reduced competition and increased costs.

Against disclosure is the public interest is the potential that by releasing the requested information would or would prejudice someone's commercial interests i.e. damage a company's reputation or the confidence that customers, suppliers or investors may have in a company.

We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the requested information, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, I have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information. We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Sections 43 of the Freedom of Information Act at this time.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

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