

17 June 2025

Control of vibration at work regulations for Staff in Orthopaedic surgery.

Please forward information on the vibration monitoring of staff exposed to power and other vibration tools in use in orthopaedic surgery in Belfast Trust including the number of staff who have been monitored and the results of monitoring undertaken in 2024/25

Orthopaedic Surgery within Belfast Trust is carried out within Musgrave Park Hospital (MPH) and Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) theatres. Currently there are 84 medical staff potentially exposed to power and other vibration tools in use within Orthopaedic surgery theatres in the Belfast Trust. Theatre nursing staff may assemble but do not operate orthopaedic theatre power tools.

The Theatre Department within Musgrave Park Hospital (MPH) have a Risk Assessment in place (Ref R49 most recently updated 13 09 2024) on the Control of Vibration at work, which rated the risk as low based on an assessed Vibration Exposure value which was calculated at 1.3 m/s².

The Theatre Department within Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) also have a Risk Assessment in place (Ref GRA-theatres most recently updated 19 07 024) on the Control of Vibration at work, which rated the risk as low based on an assessed Vibration Exposure value which was calculated at 1.8 m/s².

The Trust's Policy and Procedural Arrangements relating to the Control of Vibration at work (BHSC/Gen (08)) states that health surveillance for Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) is required when identified through the risk assessment that members of staff are likely to be exposed to vibration values above the daily exposure action value (2.5m/s²).

In line with the above trust policy, the assessed scores within orthopaedic theatres did not meet this threshold and therefore nil staff have required individual vibration survey monitoring in 2024/25.