

27 July 2023

PRODUCTS PURCHASED / USED IN YOUR HOSPITALS CONTAINING CHITIN / CHITOSAN

I am writing to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland) to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am outlining my query as specifically as possible to assist you with this request.

I would like to know:

Q1a) Is any of the product(s) purchased/used in your hospital contain Chitin/Chitosan (e.g. surgical sutures, materials in wound healing/tissue engineering/dentistry/drug delivery)?

Yes

No

This information is not centrally held within BHSCT. The products identified above may be purchased either by pharmacy for ongoing distribution or directly by clinical services, depending on whether the products are classified as medicines or not.

The pharmacy Information system is in essence a stock maintenance system and would not contain the level of detail to identify products containing Chitin/Chitosan. Pharmacy would have to review each product held across a number of sites. Some products/medicines may be clear in what they contain, others may not.

To undertake this exercise would necessitate a manual interrogation of data which would involve a significant number of hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this (element of the) request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

If the answer to Q1a is Yes then skip to Q2a.

If the answer to Q1a is No then:

Q1b) Do you plan on utilizing products containing Chitin/Chitosan in the next two years?

Yes

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No

This information is not centrally held

If the answer to Q1b is No, you may skip the rest of the questionnaire.

If the answer to Q1b is Yes, answer Q2a and then you may skip the rest of the questionnaire.

Q2a) What product(s) do you have in the hospital (or intend to purchase) that Chitin/Chitosan?

Q2b) For each product listed in response to Question Q2a, could you please provide the following details:

- The product's brand name.
- The purpose of the product and in which department it is used.
- The approximate volume of the product used/purchased over the last financial year (1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023).

Q3) Has the hospital received any complaints or filed any cases of side effects from using the Chitin/Chitosan product(s) mentioned above? If so, please provide detail of the following:

- a) Number of cases in years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023
- b) description of the most three common side effects
- c) Which product(s) caused the most commonly seen side effects

Q4) Is there any limitation(s), certification(s), or regulatory requirement(s) that are bounded when utilizing Chitin/Chitosan in the hospital (i.e. ISO standards or Ethics, etc)? If so, please specify.

Q5) Is the hospital currently or will be promoting any new products containing chitin or chitosan?

I would be interested in any information held by your organization regarding my request. If you need further clarification, please contact me by email.

I would like the information to be emailed to me electronically, preferably in Word.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request. I look forward to your response within 20 working days as outlined by the statute.

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