

22 February 2023

Belfast Trust policy for treating iatrogenic peripheral nerve injuries

I am asking for a copy of the Belfast Trust policy for treating iatrogenic peripheral nerve injuries.

If no such policy exists I would like a copy of the protocol that surgeons should follow if nerve damage is identified after surgery.

The Trust does not have a specific policy for treating iatrogenic peripheral nerve injuries. Each surgical area will have actions within their surgical care plans, for example patient positioning for procedure in order to prevent peripheral nerve injury during surgery and anaesthesia. Each area will have clinical management actions depending on the nature of the injury should this inadvertently occur. Each area will have discussed risks via the consent process for surgery. This will vary depending on which surgical specialty and the nature of the planned procedure. Where nerve damage is suspected, the patient would most likely be referred to the plastics team for their investigation and opinion. There is no single protocol for surgeons to follow as clinical management of iatrogenic peripheral nerve injury is specialty and patient specific.