

Ref. No: 004060421
From: Commercial
Date: 06/04/21
Subject: Phimosis

REQUEST

I am writing to discern the number of circumcisions that have been done to treat phimosis (N47.1) in the UK.

I would like to know how many such circumcisions that were carried out by your NHS trust in the years of 2018 and 2019, or any similar time period for which the records are readily available. If your trust does not carry out circumcision to treat phimosis then please just reply to say so.

If possible I would like to be provided with a breakdown of the ages of the patients at the time of the procedure; either in the way in which this information is already recorded by yourselves, or alternatively in the following way:

- Between the ages 0-4
- Between the ages 5-8
- Between the ages 9-12
- Between the ages 13-16
- Between the ages 16 to 20
- Ages 21+

RESPONSE

The number of patients having had a circumcision procedure that were also diagnosed in the same admission as having phimosis is provided below. Please note that while we can confirm the number of patients diagnosed we cannot confirm that they have been treated without manually auditing the patient records.

A manual audit of patient records would exceed the appropriate cost limit. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further

Age Band	2018	2019
Aged 0-4	0	0
Aged 5-8	10	*<5
Aged 9-12	*<5	7
Aged 13-16	*<5	15
Aged 17-20	21	14
Aged 21+	164	154

* **Please note:** We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.