

Ref. No: 1607
Date: 17th March 2025
Subject: NHS Treatment of Botched Overseas Surgeries

REQUEST

1. NHS Admissions for Complications Following Overseas Surgeries

- The total number of hospital admissions where the NHS has treated patients for complications resulting from surgeries conducted abroad.
- A yearly breakdown from January 2020 to January 2025 (or the most recent available period).

2. Breakdown of Patients Treated

For each year, please provide where available:

- Age group of patients (e.g.: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+).
- Gender of patients.

3. Data Classified Under Relevant ICD-10 Codes (or their NHS equivalents):

Please provide a breakdown of cases recorded under the following ICD-10 codes related to complications of surgical procedures:

- T81 – Complications of procedures (e.g., infections, wound disruption, foreign bodies left in the body).
- T82-T85 – Complications of prosthetic devices, implants, and grafts.
- T86 – Failure and rejection of transplanted organs and tissues.
- T87 – Complications of amputations and reattachments.
- T88 – Other complications of surgical and medical care (including anaesthesia-related complications).
- Y60-Y69 – Surgical errors and misadventures (e.g., accidental punctures, foreign objects left inside patients, failure of sterile precautions, inappropriate procedures).
- Y70-Y79 – Medical devices associated with adverse incidents.
- Y83-Y84 – Abnormal patient reactions or complications following surgery or other medical procedures.

4. Specific Details on Procedures Leading to NHS Admissions

MWL response

The Trust's system only allows identification of patients clinically coded with the ICD-10 codes provided in the request.

This number is a total volume and data extract does not determine if the ICD - 10 specified related to a patient who had undergone overseas surgery.

Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

12. (1) - Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

In determining the time limit, the Trust can only take into account

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

In order to determine whether the information is held in respect of your request, the Trust would need to **review** over 15000 patient records for the financial years requested. A simple report cannot be produced as recorded ICD 10 does not specify what you are asking.

Calculation - Across the Trust there are approximately 15000 presentations to the Trust during the years you have requested. We calculate it will take 30 minutes to review each event, the total time for determining whether the information is held and retrieving this information would equal 7500 hours¹

Advice and Assistance

Under section 16 of the FOIA, advice and assistance should be provided to allow the request to come under the appropriate limit by scaling or modifying the request.

¹ 15000 attendances * 30 minute to review each event = 450000 minutes
450000 minutes = 7500 hours,

Unable to narrow

However, as the information is not readily available and the number of attendances so large, it would not be easy to scale down the request in this instance, for example, to one site. It would also not be possible to scale the request to one month as this would still exceed the time limit.

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide further assistance