



South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust

Information Governance

27 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 411

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Hepatitis B and D Patients**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above, which you requested on 2 December 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Planning, Performance & Informatics and Surgery, Elective Care, Maternity & Paediatrics Directorates and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Keith McCollum
Information Governance Team

Q1 a) How many Hepatitis B surface antigen positive (HBsAg, ICD 10 codes B18.0 and B18.1) patients do you have registered with the trust?

A1 a) Hepatitis testing in Northern Ireland is carried out by the Regional Virus Laboratory in Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT).

Your question can be addressed to Belfast Health & Social Care Trust at: - publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Q1 b) How many of these patients have been seen in the last 12 months?

A1 a) Seven unique patients were seen as inpatient admissions in the Trust hospitals with a diagnosis code of B18.0 or B18.1 in the last 12 months for which clinical coding has been completed (01/06/23 to 31/05/24).

Q2. How many patients have been registered in the last year with a new diagnosis of chronic HBV (ICD-10 codes B18.0 and B18.1) at the trust?

A2. The Trust are unable to respond to this question as the clinical coding does not specify if the diagnosis is new or existing.

Q3 a) How many HDV patients (ICD 10 code B18.0 - chronic viral hepatitis B with delta agent) do you have registered with the trust?

A3 a) Hepatitis testing in Northern Ireland is carried out by the Regional Virus laboratory in Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT).

Your question can be addressed to Belfast Health & Social Care Trust at: - publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Q3 b) How many of these patients have been seen in the last 12 months?

A3 b). There have been < 5 unique patients seen as inpatient admissions in Trust hospitals, with a diagnosis code of B18.0, in the last 12 months, for which clinical coding has been completed (01/06/23 to 31/05/24).

Please note where numbers are 1-4, in line with Trust policy, it is given as <5, to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

Cont'd..

Q3 c) *How many of these patients have ever been treated with pegylated interferon (PEG IFN)?*

A3 c). None of the patients referred to in question 3a have ever been treated with PEGylated interferon (PEG IFN).