

22 August 2023

**Our Ref:** RFI 52395

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Prescribed Medical Devices for at Home Use by  
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 25 July 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Primary Care and Older People Services Directorate and Surgery & Elective, Maternity & Paediatrics Directorate 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](mailto: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

---

**Robyn Watterson  
Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. How many patients of SEHSCT are using or have been prescribed the following medical devices for use in their home?**

- a) Nebuliser**
- b) Oxygen Concentrator**
- c) Suction**
- d) Ventilator or non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP or CPAP)**
- e) Feeding pump**
- f) Powered Hospital Bed**
- g) Electric Wheelchair**
- h) Haemodialysis Machine**
- i) Body Drier**
- j) Chair Lift**

**Q2. What, if any, rebate or refund schemes are made available by SEHSCT for patients in respect of the energy costs they incur running the above devices?**

A1-2. Please see table below.

Device	Number as of 31 July 2023	Rebate or Refund Schemes available by the Trust
a. Nebuliser	40 per year on loan	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.
b. Oxygen Concentrator	266	Service users get paid for every unit of energy that they use by BOC, the contract holder. This is done via the meter reading – usage for period. There is an estimated reading initially and the patient is reimbursed at this usage rate. When the meter is read at six months during a maintenance visit then the actual usage is calculated and any shortfall is reimbursed
c. Suction	72	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.
d. Ventilator or non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP or CPAP)	NIV – 121 CPAP - 1517	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.
e. Feeding pump	166 90 Adults 76 Paediatrics	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.
f. Powered hospital bed	2353	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.
g. Electric Wheelchair	280	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.
h. Haemodialysis Machine	Nil	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.
i. Body Drier	Nil	N/A
j. Chair Lift	412	No reimbursement/support for usage scheme in respect of energy costs.