

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Hackney College  
Defoe Building, Room 10  
50 Hoxton Street  
N1 6LP

Date 13th September 2016

Email: [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Ref: FOI 2685**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding the use of Bilirubinometers at Homerton hospital.

The Trust can provide the following information:

1. **How many community midwives does your trust employ?** 46 wte
2. **How many live births was your trust responsible for in financial year 2015/16?** 6018
3. **How many bilirubinometers (device to measure bilirubin in the blood) does your trust have available for use by community midwives?** Bilirubinometers are currently not being used by community midwives
4. **Where are your trust's bilirubinometers stored?** There is a bilirubinometer that is being used on the postnatal ward which is stored in the nursery/treatment room.
5. **What training is provided to community midwives in the use of bilirubinometers?** N/A
6. **How much does your trust spend per annum on purchasing bilirubinometers? Please provide figure for financial year 2015/16:** 0 - None purchased
7. **Does your trust have a policy for treatment of neonatal jaundice?** Yes
8. **If a policy exists how do you ensure community midwives are familiar with it and adhere to it when attending to babies in the community?** The guideline is available on the Trust's intranet website, any changes to the guideline are cascaded via mandatory training, emails notices or tips of the fortnight (maternity notices to give information about practice issues)
9. **What is your average discharge time for babies and mothers following a live birth?**  
The average discharge time for babies and mothers, following a live birth in 2015/2016:
  - Babies 3.28 days. (This will include babies In NICU)
  - Mothers 2.32 days

**10. Do you record cases of brain damage caused by high bilirubin levels in babies with neonatal jaundice (kernicterus)?**

We do not record this information as this is difficult to diagnose at the time of baby's discharge from neonatal unit. We will arrange MRI brain scan as an out-patient in severe jaundice cases as clinically indicated but data on this not collected. SEND (Neonatal information system) will document jaundice as a diagnosis with details of treatment (phototherapy, exchange transfusion etc).

**11. If yes to the question above then please provide figures for the number of cases for all financial years where data is available.**

As informed above

**12. How much compensation did your trust pay to children with brain damage caused by high bilirubin levels (kernicterus) for all financial years where data is available.**

From our records, we can confirm that no compensation has been paid out by the Trust since 2007. For any data prior to 2007 you will need to contact the NHS Litigations Authority (NHS LA) directly.

They can be contacted at the following email address; [FOI@nhsla.com](mailto:FOI@nhsla.com) to request the information you require.

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk) , in the first instance. If following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

Mohamed Uddin  
FoI Administrator

Mike Dunne  
Information Governance Manager