

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/117
Sudden Cardiac Death

Q1 How many patients pass through your morgue each year?

The annual number of admissions to the mortuary is variable, but is approximately 2,000 per annum.

Q2 Approximately what proportion of these have a cardiac implantable device in situ? (PPM, ICD, ILR)

The data is not formally collected, but anecdotally it is approximately 5 per cent.

Q3 Does the hospital morgue also take deaths from the community, or is it for inpatients only?

The mortuary receives both community and hospital deaths.

Q4 Is there a cardiac physiology department on site at your hospital?

Yes.

Q5 If a patient has a cardiac device in situ, is it routine practice for a device check to be undertaken after death?

No.

Q6a If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely added to the patient's notes/hospital record?

Not applicable.

Q6b If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely passed on to the clinical team?

Not applicable.

Q7 If no and this is not routine practice, are there ever exceptions to this, i.e., occasions where a post-death device check is requested by the clinical team?

Yes.

Q8 If yes, please elaborate (for example, how often or under what circumstances this occurs).

Post-mortems, unexplained death, and when ICD therapies need to be deactivated.

We welcome any additional information or comments that might help in our investigation.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 grants individuals the right to access information held by a public authority that exists at the time of request. It does not require a public authority to create new information.