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Mansfield Road
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Nottinghamshire
NG17 4JL

25th March 2025

Tel: 01623 622515
Join today: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference:
Toxicological screening procedures

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. What are the standard procedures for conducting screenings for individuals who believe they might have been administered a substance without their consent upon presenting to A&E?	We treat symptomatically and advise to contact police as a legal matter.			
2. Are there specific protocols for these situations, and if so, what are they?	There is no standard procedure that the Chemistry clinical team are aware of. The laboratory would receive a random urine sample from Emergency Department (ED) for drugs screening, which we would send away to University Hospitals of Leicester.			
3. What information is given to patients regarding the utility and limitations of testing conducted in your A&E setting, including the context of potential law enforcement or justice processes, if any?	No information given to the patient other than any treatment required for symptom management.			
4. Does this information make clear whether or not tests conducted in A&E are admissible in court? If so, what does it state?	The police would have to request medical records/test results.			
5. What advice or support is provided to individuals during and after the screening process?	Contact police.			
6. Are there any follow-up procedures or referrals to other support services offered to these individuals?	No, recommendation to discuss with the police, unless safeguarding concerns were identified in which case a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referral would be made.			

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Home, Community, Hospital.

7. What is the scope of screening conducted in your A&E? If available, what type of testing is used.	Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LCMS) screen performed by University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL). For reference, all drugs included in our drugs of abuse screening panel are listed on our website: Drugs of Abuse Screening (DOAs) (leicestershospitals.nhs.uk).			
8. Are any specific drugs or substances prioritised or given special attention during these screenings?	All requests for drug screening are treated in the same way by Sherwood Forest Hospitals in that the sample and request form are forwarded to the referral laboratory.			
9. Have A&E staff had specific and dedicated training about spiking? If so, please provide details of this training.	There isn't any dedicated training for the nursing team. There is a release from Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) https://rcem.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/RCEM-Spiking-position-statement-.pdf			

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.