

Ref. No: 0608
Date: 19/01/24
Subject: Amputations (Medical Errors)

REQUEST

How many amputations took place due to medical errors between January 2020 - now? By 'medical errors' I refer to;

- Delayed treatment of an infection.
- Failure to recognise that the blood supply has been cut off to a limb.
- Poor management of peripheral neuropathy in diabetic patients.
- A surgeon operating on the wrong body part.
- Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or a delay in diagnosis of a DVT.
- Incorrect treatment of fractures causing tissue damage.
- Negligently performed joint replacement surgery.

Can this information be broken down by year, up to and include any data held for January 2024.

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. Patients	<5	<5	0	0	0

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed "lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner". It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in

our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.