

Date: 28/05/2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/011855

With reference to your FOI request in connection with 'Self funding' please see response below.

Please can the Trust answer the following questions relating to self-funding patients (i.e. patients who pay a fixed cost price for a procedure) under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please can you supply information in the format of an Excel spreadsheet if possible.

1 - Does your Trust offer the option to patients for self-funding of certain treatments and procedures? If so, please state when this policy was first introduced.

2 - Please list all treatments and procedures that patients currently have the option of self-funding at your trust.

3 - Please list any treatments and procedures that were added to the list of services patients can self-fund at your trust in the past 12 months.

4 - Please state the total number of self-funding patients the Trust treated in each the following years:

- a) 2010/11
- b) 2011/12
- c) 2012/13
- d) 2013/14

5 - Please state the total amount of money the Trust received from self-funding patients in each the following years:

- a) 2010/11
- b) 2011/12
- c) 2012/13
- d) 2013/14

To clarify, I am referring to a policy some hospitals have introduced to allow patients to pay for certain treatment at NHS rates. This usually applies to procedures that are restricted on the NHS, for example IVF. This is not something that has been introduced everywhere so may not apply to your own Trust.

Epsom and St Helier Trust, which does have this policy in place, describes self-funding on their website here. In this case they are talking about IVF...

<http://www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/our-services/a-to-z-of-services/women-and-children/gynaecology/assistedconception-unit/funding-your-treatment/>

It says: "You may wish to fund your own treatment if your PCT does not fund IVF, or you do not wish to wait for funding, or you are not eligible for NHS funding. We describe the treatment as "self-funded" rather than "private" because the treatment is exactly the same as for patients funded by the NHS. The charges we make are non-profitmaking,

i.e. they are at cost price."

This is the practice I am referring to. If your trust employs this policy for IVF or for any other treatment, this is what I am interested in receiving information on.

The Trust does not do any self-funding treatments