

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.134.24

24 December 2024

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information, which was received on 4 December 2024, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does hold the information that you require.

For ease of reference your request is set out below and my response follows.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000), I would like to understand your use and aftercare of the B. Braun Aesculap Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary and I would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

The B. Braun Aesculap Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary is used to relieve symptomatic prolapse of the Uterus where patients are either unwilling or unfit (chronic illness, old age) for surgery and the ring Pessary falls out. The Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary can be used as a stopgap, where surgery needs to be delayed, or the patient requires limited relief. After initial fitting with a Medical Practitioner/ Gynaecologist, the maximum allowable time the Vaginal Pessary should be fitted without removal, for review and cleaning, is 3 months. After which the device should be cleaned and re-fitted.

Please would you respond to the following questions:

1. Name:
2. Job Title:
3. Hospital:

4. Over the last two calendar years (Jan 23 – Nov 24) has your hospital/organisation experienced any failure of the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary after implanting that relate to the materials used?

5. Over the last two calendar years (Jan 23 – Nov 24) has your hospital/organisation experienced any Adverse Events that were not reported to the MHRA and what side effects or adverse events occurred?

6. For the population of patients that your hospital uses an implanted Vaginal Pessary, do you feel there are other devices available that performs the same tasks as the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary and which devices seem to have less adverse effects on this group of patients?

7. Are the ranges of sizes of the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary from 51mm – 101mm adequate for your patient population?

8. Can you describe your experience of using the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary with your patients and would you recommend its use to other clinicians at other Hospital or wider audience?

Powys Response:

Q1 & Q2. Senior Nurse Manger OPD Development.

Q3. Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

Q4. I can confirm over the last two calendar years, Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) has not experienced any failure of the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary.

Q5. I can confirm over the last two calendar years PTHB has not experienced any adverse events.

Q6. Yes, I can confirm there is alternative devices available.

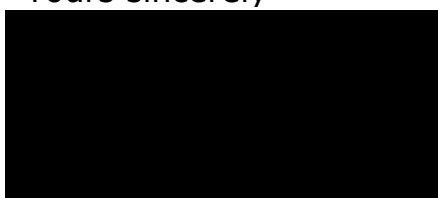
Q7. Yes.

Q8. I can confirm our patients are happy with the Simpson Shelf Vaginal Pessary experience.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information procedure, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request, please contact us directly at the address below or register your complaint via powysfoi.foi@wales.nhs.uk

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 0330 414 6421.

Yours sincerely



David Farnsworth
Assistant Director, Community Services Group

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.