



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: AD-IG-01(2)-46-2017
Key Word: Burns
Subject: First Aid
Request: **Date Received:** 18/04/2017
Monitoring Date: 19/04/2017
Date of Response: 24/04/2017

Thank you for your request for information received on 18 April 2017 and which was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We would also inform you that Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) Health and Social Care Trust has now completed its search for the information you requested and which is detailed below for your attention.

Question 1

What is your current practice for thermal burns first aid in terms of irrigant/coolant applied, the advocated temperature of coolant and expected duration of cooling?

Answer 1

NIAS clinicians will irrigate/cool the affected part with running water (if possible) for a period of ten minutes (20 minutes for chemical burns). If running water is not available then the wound will be irrigated/cooled by using fluid carried in the ambulance.

Question 2

In particular, we are seeking to identify how many trusts employ hydrogel products (eg Water Gel) for burns in either a cooling or dressing capacity within those guidelines.

Answer 2

NIAS uses Water Gel as both a coolant (where a running water supply is not available or exhausted) and as a dressing. The potential for patient Hypothermia associated with Water Gel is highlighted during training. The Water Gel is left in place and a sterile dressing applied over the gel. If, after a period of cooling, hypothermia has been identified as a likely complication of using Water Gel, then the Water Gel dressing is removed and a sterile dressing applied directly to the affected part.

I hope the above fully assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. Please note that, under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations, if you wish to publish or otherwise use this information besides for your own means, you will need to seek our permission to do so.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Finance and ICT Director, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) HSC Trust, Site 30, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8SG.



If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the Trust has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Website: ni@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Telephone: 028 9027 8757 or 0303 123 1114 (Belfast based Office)

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion. Please be advised that NIAS replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.niamb.co.uk>.

Personal details in respect of your request will have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Yours sincerely

Alison Vitty

Alison Vitty (Miss)
CORPORATE MANAGER