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3 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2022/23-57

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office, requesting information on vaginal speculums.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we are able to provide a reply to your request. SCCL's responses are below in blue to the requested information.

1. Supplier/Brand and model of vaginal speculums (disposable and non disposable), trans-vaginal ultrasound probes and rectal ultrasound probes used by all the services for which we coordinate supply provisions (GP surgeries, sexual health clinics, hospitals, etc).

Please find attached data which provides an overview of the speculum products that sit within the NHS Supply Chain Catalogue.

2. Explanation regarding who's responsibility it is to choose the suppliers, models and sizes.

There is no mandate for any NHS organisation to buy through NHS Supply Chain, each NHS organisation would determine the most appropriate products for their patient care.

3. Ratio of different models and sizes ordered and used.

Please find attached data which provides a ratio of different models and sizes ordered

4. Actual dimensions (length, width at largest point, width at the non-moving part) associated with all models and sizes.

Not all suppliers provide specific dimensions for each product apart from small, medium and large (e.g. as with many other clinical products, a small size from one supplier may not be classed as a small by another supplier).

Ultimately it is clinicians themselves who determine the products they feel are the most appropriate for their patients.

5. Information on how the adequacy of the size and brands used are reviewed (including patients feedback on discomfort, pain, injuries and other side effects experienced as a result of using these tools).

NHS trusts keep their own records individually in this area. Any trust/patient complaint or concern reported to SCCL would be fully investigated with the corresponding supplier/trust and reported on accordingly.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the postal or e-mail addresses above, quoting the reference number above. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the handling of your information request will be reassessed by a member of SCCL staff who was not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team

Supply Chain Coordination Limited
Management Function of NHS Supply Chain