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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information/Environmental Information Regulations Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_601_25

You asked:

Please provide the following information with regards to employee formaldehyde exposure in the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy suites.

Documents to disclose:

- 1. Please provide the formaldehyde exposure risk assessment that is currently used by the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy team to fulfill employer obligations under COSHH regulations (2002) Section 6.**

We can confirm that a full risk assessment has not been carried out and therefore, we cannot provide a copy of a risk assessment. The reason for this is that the potential exposure to formaldehyde would not exceed the occupational exposure limits due to the quantities used within an Endoscopy theatre. Furthermore, only one pot is opened at a time which limits potential exposure, as one pot holds 30ml.

Within our Endoscopy Units we meet the COSHH regulations (2002) Section 6 requirements by using:

- Pre-filled 30ml formaldehyde pots.
- Exposure time is minimal (only one pot opened when required to receive the biopsy using a forceps, the pot is situated away from the handler).
- Exposure is limited as the pot is only open for the required time (a maximum of 1-2 minutes) with the lid replaced in between samples to prevent spills and exposure.
- We follow COOSH regulations for exposure control by use of nitrile gloves, splash proof eye goggles and visor usage.
- Eye wash boxes are kept in each Endoscopy theatre as a precaution.

- 2. Please provide *all* formaldehyde exposure monitoring data (both fixed static monitoring and personal badge monitoring, with personal details redacted as appropriate) relating to the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy service encompassing the last 12 months that is used to fulfill employer obligations under COSHH regulations (2002) Section 10. It is noted that such records should be kept available for at least 5 years under COSHH regulations (2002) Section 10(5)(b).**

We do not require monitoring for the minimal exposure times we have in Endoscopy theatres. Individual monitoring has not been considered necessary within the theatre environment due to the minimal formaldehyde quantities used. Theatre rooms have the maximum air exchanger rates to

clear the air on a cycle, this is regulated by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and checked in line with Health Board Policy.

3. How often is regular scheduled formaldehyde exposure monitoring undertaken in the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy suite?

No monitoring for formaldehyde exposure is carried out as the risk is deemed to be minimal due to the control measures taken.

4. What is the total number of occasions formaldehyde regular scheduled exposure monitoring has been undertaken in the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy suites over the last 12 months?

Nil, due to the above.