



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_94_26

You asked:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am interested in the types and colours of surgical skin markers used within your organisation, and how procurement or clinical guidance decisions are made about their use.

Please provide the following information:

1. A list of all surgical skin markers currently used in your organisation for:

- **Pre-operative site marking in theatres.**
- **Marking the skin for bedside or ward-based procedures (e.g., central venous access, chest drains, skin demarcation, or similar).**

Surgical Skin Marker, Sterile, Bold-Line Violet

2. For each marker, please include:

- **Brand and product name.**
- **Ink colour(s).**
- **Typical clinical area(s) where it is used.**

- Aspen Surgical, Surgical Skin Marker, Sterile, Bold-Line
- Violet
- Theatres / Wards

3. Copies of any product specifications, catalogues, or procurement documents held by the organisation that describe available colours and intended use.

We do not hold this information.

4. Copies of any current Organisational policies, protocols, guidelines, or training materials that:

- **Refer to the choice of surgical skin marker colour.**
- **Refer to visibility of markings in different clinical contexts or patient groups.**
- **Address this issue within equality, diversity and inclusion, patient safety, or clinical governance documents.**

No organisation policy, protocols etc.

Adherence on national level to NatSSIPs2 requirements.

5. Information on whether any additional or alternative marker colours (beyond standard ones) are available within the organisation (e.g., for use in clinical areas or patient groups where standard markings may be less visible).

We only have the one standard marker.

6. Anonymised, aggregated incident reports, risk assessments, or patient safety reports (1 January 2019 to present) where visibility of skin markings was identified as a contributory factor. (No patient-identifiable information is requested.)

Following a search of our records on our Datix system (Digital Risk and Incident reporting platform), we can confirm that there are no reported incident where visibility of skin markings was identified as a contributory factor.