



Ref: 0701

Request:

Received: 15/06/2010

Dear London Ambulance Service NHS Trust,

Could you please tell me the success rates for endotracheal intubation (ETI) procedures carried out by Paramedics?

On what percentage of patients was ETI completed successfully on the first attempt?

On what percentage of patients was ETI attempted and failed on the first AND ALL subsequent attempts?

How many ETIs were attempted last year?

Yours faithfully,



Response:

Responded: 28/06/2010

Dear

Thank you for your request for information, placed under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

I should explain that whilst we record intubation data there is only a single category within the Patient Record Form, (the record of the assessment and treatment provided, completed by the attending ambulance staff), which indicates if ETI was performed and if it was successful. We therefore do not hold nor can we provide information of the manner you request about the number of attempts made.

We can however confirm that in 2009 intubation took place at 3296 incidents and that in 2663 (81%) of these intubation was successfully achieved. In 457 (14%) cases intubation was not successfully achieved, and in 176 (5%) intubation was carried out but we are unable to be certain of the outcome. Please note that as we record intubation per incident the total number of incidents may also include those occasions, for example at a Road Traffic Collision, where more than one patient may have been intubated.

We estimate that 3 - 4 intubations are conducted per paramedic per year. This also reflects that this clinical intervention is undertaken in relation to a very small portion of our total patients.

I do hope this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett
Head of Patient Experiences
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust