



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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14th August 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6642

We are responding to your request for information received 4th June 2026. We are sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact us on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

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We promise to work together creatively to: learn
'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

Question 1: Current Stock and Usage

- a) What is the current stock level of co-codamol in 30mg/500mg tablets held by your Trust (by number of tablets/capsules and number of packs)?
- b) What is your Trust's monthly dispensing or usage volume of co-codamol 30mg/500mg since March 2025 to present?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:
(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

The Trust has reviewed your question as a request for information and is applying section 43 of the FOI Act. Section 43 exemption applies to commercial interests. As this is a qualified exemption, the public interest in withholding the information should outweigh the public interest in disclosure. The Trust has applied the public interest test and in this instance believes disclosure of this information is commercially sensitive.

Question 2: Supply Disruption and Patient Impact

- a) Has your Trust experienced any disruption to the supply of co-codamol 30mg/500mg in the past three years (2022–2025)? If yes, please provide: the date(s) the disruption was first encountered, the approximate duration, and which formulations were affected.
- b) Has the supply disruption required your Trust to switch patients to alternative analgesics? If yes, please state which alternatives were prescribed and the number of patients affected.
- c) Has your Trust raised any formal incident reports internally or with NHS England/NHS Supply Chain as a result of this supply issue? If yes, how many in the past 12 months?

Answer: There have been no specific supply problems encountered regarding co-codamol within the Trust.

Question 3: Stockpiling and Contingency

- a) Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for co-codamol 30mg/500mg? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold.
- b) Has your Trust increased stock levels of surgical sutures as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months?
- c) If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels?

Answer: In accordance with London Regional NHS guidance and policy, ELFT does not stock pile any medications. Please see: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-guide-to-the-systems-and-processes-for-managing-medicines-supply-issues-in-england/>



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