Northern Health and Social Care Trust

**FOI 3754**

**Surgical Skin Markers**

**Provide the following information:**

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

**a) Pre-operative site marking in theatres.**

Most patients have their site marked at ward level before arriving in theatres. E.G left or right Markers held in theatre are listed in Question 2.

**b) Marking the skin for bedside or ward-based procedures (e.g., central venous access, chest drains, skin demarcation, or similar).**

N/A

**2) For each marker, please include:**

**a) Brand and product name.**

Fannin UK / surgical marking pen EASI MARK.

**b) Ink colour(s).**

(Fannin UK)– blue/dark purple.

**c) Typical clinical area(s) where it is used.**

Theatres.

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

These are ordered via BSO (Business Services Organisation) therefore this information should be obtained from Procurement and logistics.

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

There is no policy on skin marking as this is surgeons' choice and responsibility.

**a) Refer to the choice of surgical skin marker colour.**

Marker that is on contract is used.

**b) Refer to visibility of markings in different clinical contexts or patient groups.**

N/A

**c) Address this issue within equality, diversity and inclusion, patient safety, or clinical governance documents.**

N/A

**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).**

Markers are procured through procurement and logistics via a contract and tender process**.**

**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.)**

There have been no documented incidents, risk assessments or patient safety issues reported.