FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REF: 2026-131
Subject: Surgical Skin Markers

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email dated **13/02/2026** where you requested information about **Surgical Skin Markers.**

The information you requested is enclosed.

Question	Answer
1. A list of all surgical skin markers currently used in your organisation for:	
• Pre-operative site marking in theatres.	• Evergreen Unit - pre operative skin marking • Dermatology OPD theatres and clinic
• Marking the skin for bedside or ward-based procedures (e.g., central venous access, chest drains, skin demarcation, or similar).	• Radiology - Sunflower Breast imaging unit. Skin marking for breast and axilla under ultrasound guidance. • Dermatology - Use in theatre, for marking surgical sites. Used in clinic to indicate areas to medical illustration for photography
2. For each marker, please include:	
• Brand and product name.	• Fannin UK Ltd. Ref: SM0572 • Fannin Easi Mark
• Ink colour(s).	• Blue • Violet
• Typical clinical area(s) where it is used.	• Breast Imaging (Radiology) • Sunflower Suite - Ultrasound) • Breast Services (Evergreen Suite) • Dermatology - Clinic and theatres
3. Copies of any product specifications, catalogues, or procurement documents held by the organisation that describe available colours and intended use.	Skintact Easi-Mark Surgical Skin Marker - Fannin Ltd NHS Supply Chain (see image attached) Blue ink - used across both Sunflower and Evergreen.

	Dermatology - Surgical Skin Marker REF:- SM0572 (see image attached)
4. Copies of any current Organisational policies, protocols, guidelines, or training materials that:	**Policy for Radiographer Practitioners Performing, Interpreting and Reporting Breast Ultrasound Examinations BBU 32** (awaiting approval with Policy Group). **Breast Imaging Unit Local Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (LocSSIPs)** - awaiting Policy Group.
• Refer to the choice of surgical skin marker colour.	Blue ink only
• Refer to visibility of markings in different clinical contexts or patient groups.	Applies to all patient groups for breast and axilla skin marking. Visible.
• Address this issue within equality, diversity and inclusion, patient safety, or clinical governance documents.	Used within all patient groups as visible when applied within different ethnic groups. Individual pack, sterile, disposable. Non-Toxic Latex free **Safety:** ISO 10993 biocompatibility tested, suitable for sensitive skin
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).	None available on NHS Supply chain. Standard is blue / violet. No issues with application or visibility.
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-	None No incidents made from Dermatology re these markers

identifiable information is requested.)	

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Department. It would be helpful to quote the above reference number in any future communication.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to The Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal Bolton Hospital, Minerva Road, Farnworth, Bolton. BL4 0JR.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.

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Yours sincerely,

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