

Reference Number: FOI/LHCH/2016041
From: Private Individual
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Subject: Post operative critical care unit

- Q You have probably Post-anesthesia Care Unit or Post Operative Critical Care Unit. I want to ask if the patient's hospital stay location is in ICU / ITU / HDU after an anesthesia-based operation / operation treatment in the following circumstances:
- (1) patient is in what is referred by NHS or similar though offensive to vegetarians as being in "vegetative state" (awake but not aware) ie less than 4 weeks?
 - (2) patient is in what is referred in NHS or similar though offensive to vegetarians as being "persistent vegetative state" (awake but not aware) ie more than 4 weeks?
 - (3) patient is in what is referred in NHS or similar though offensive to vegetarians as being "permanent vegetative state" or as being "unresponsive wakefulness syndrome" or minimally conscious (all meaning awake but not aware) ie more than 3 months / 6 months / 1 year?
 - (4) patient is in what is referred in NHS or similar though offensive to mothers as being "coma" (lack both awaking and awareness)?
- A In relation to the above questions, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital has a Post Operative Care Unit. Patients are admitted to the Post Operative Care Unit and ITU following cardiac or thoracic surgery and the patient will have undergone an anaesthetic. Patients are usually kept sedated until their physical condition allows them to be woken up and that they can breathe for themselves and respiratory support removed or lessened. Some patients who have suffered CVA (Stoke) or other neurological deficit are also treated in the Post Operative Care Unit.