



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-386

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 27th October 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 19th September 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Lipoprotein(a) Testing

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Please find below a freedom of information request relating to the use of Lipoprotein(a) testing within your organization.

Q1 How many newly diagnosed atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) patients such as those including the following conditions (e.g. MI, Stroke, PAD etc...) has University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust documented in the following years?

2020

2021

2022

1b Of those patients with ASCVD, how many were tested for Lipoprotein(a) / LP(a) in the following years at University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust?

2020

2021

2022

A1 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

Q2 Of those patients in question 1b how many experienced the following events prior to/as a result of testing?

Premature myocardial infarction (MI)
Myocardial infarction (MI)
Family history of coronary heart disease (CHD)/cardiovascular disease (CVD)

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD)
Transient ischaemic attack (TIA)
Atherothrombotic stroke
Repeated cardiovascular events
Other (Please specify)

.....
,.....

2b At what point in the patient pathway do you test for LP(a)?

A2 2.a: information not held.
2 b: information not held.

Q3 Is LP(a) in your hospital reimbursed? If not, please explain how it is funded?

A3 Hyperlipidemia patients post MI have their lipids optimised in the cardiac post MI clinics and then referred to the lipid clinics for further management of hyperlipidaemia. Lp(a) testing is not part of an agreed pathway between cardiology and the lipid services that are provided by endocrinology or clinical chemistry departments.

Q4 Who within University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust is able to request Lipoprotein(a) / LP(a) testing? Is testing restricted to certain specialisms/clinics?

A4 There is no agreement

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records