



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-487

Date: 25th November 2023

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24th October 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Bronchiectasis Pathway.

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.

Q1 I am a 2nd year MSc Physiotherapy student currently working on my dissertation. It is a service transformation project on the Bronchiectasis pathway within an acute trust. To assist with this, I am sending this email as a Freedom of Information request regarding your Trust’s bronchiectasis pathway.

- Does the Trust currently have a Bronchiectasis pathway? If no, why?
- Is there a plan to implement one? And how so?
- Will it be based on the NICE and British Thoracic Society Guidelines?
- If yes, please provide when the current Bronchiectasis pathway was implemented. Are they based on the NICE and British Thoracic Guidelines?
- Is physiotherapy a key part in your trusts acute Bronchiectasis management?
- Since implementation, are more patients being referred to physiotherapy?
- Has there been an improvement in patient outcomes/management of bronchiectasis?
- Pre and post implementation, what are the referral statistics to physiotherapists?
- Patient’s being admitted into hospital with acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis, are they being referred to physiotherapists on admission?
- Average waiting time for referral to physiotherapists?
- How do you refer to a physiotherapist? Paper, digital or verbal communication?
- If there is a referral form to physiotherapy, what does this consist of?
- Is there a criteria for a patient (admitted with acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis) that they need to meet for a referral to physiotherapy? If so, what are the criteria?
- What have been the goals of the Trust since the implementation of the Bronchiectasis pathway? And has there been improvement?
- Are the goals being achieved?

A1 See below:

• Does the Trust currently have a Bronchiectasis pathway? If no, why?	Yes
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

• Is there a plan to implement one? And how so?	Not applicable
• Will it be based on the NICE and British Thoracic Society Guidelines?	UHNM already uses
• If yes, please provide when the current Bronchiectasis pathway was implemented. Are they based on the NICE and British Thoracic Guidelines?	Not applicable
• Is physiotherapy a key part in your trusts acute Bronchiectasis management?	Yes
• Since implementation, are more patients being referred to physiotherapy?	Yes
• Has there been an improvement in patient outcomes/management of bronchiectasis?	Pathway already in place
• Pre and post implementation, what are the referral statistics to physiotherapists?	All inpatients with bronchiectasis are seen by the physiotherapists unless they actively decline consent
• Patient's being admitted into hospital with acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis, are they being referred to physiotherapists on admission?	Yes
• Average waiting time for referral to physiotherapists?	Information is not held but unclear if this is when referring as inpatients or outpatients
• How do you refer to a physiotherapist? Paper, digital or verbal communication?	digital
• If there is a referral form to physiotherapy, what does this consist of?	Patient details, reason for referral, and urgency
• Is there a criteria for a patient (admitted with acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis) that they need to meet for a referral to physiotherapy? If so, what are the criteria?	Diagnosis of bronchiectasis confirmed or suspected and chest symptoms
• What have been the goals of the Trust since the implementation of the Bronchiectasis pathway? And has there been improvement?	Development of a self-management plan currently under review
• Are the goals being achieved?	Yes
• Does the Trust currently have a Bronchiectasis pathway? If no, why?	Yes

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records