



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-584

Date: 7th December 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 4th December 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding PoTs

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 Postural Tachycardia Syndrome PoTS

Postural tachycardia syndrome (PoTS) is a neurovascular condition characterised as an abnormal response by the autonomic nervous system to upright posture. The condition causes affected patients of all ages to experience a range of symptoms requiring extensive clinical investigations involving neurology and cardiology specialties to inform a positive diagnosis.

1. What is your estimate of the incidence of PoTS in the population of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent and how many patients have been diagnosed with the condition over the last 5 years?

A1 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

Q2 Is there evidence of a growth in PoTS diagnoses since May 2020 due to patients suffering with long-Covid?

A2 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

Q3 To which specialty within secondary care are PoTS patients referred for investigation, diagnosis and longer-term management?

- A3 Cardiology accept referrals for POTS from primary care or other specialities.
- Q4 Are there established ICB patient pathways in place for the referral, diagnosis and management of a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients with PoTS in your local population?**
- A4 Information not held by UHNM. ICB may hold this information
- Q5 Do a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients diagnosed with PoTS have access to a specialised PoTS clinic or service for treatment by dedicated clinicians with an interest/expertise in the condition? If so, please provide details of individual adult and paediatric services patients are referred to.**
- A5 While there are not specific POTS clinics, there are a number of Doctors within Cardiology with an interest/expertise in the condition and patients are allocated to their clinics for further treatment and management. This is for adult patients only.
- Q6 How is activity coded for adult and paediatric patients with a diagnosis of PoTS?**
- A6 The code for PoTS is I49.8 Other specified cardiac arrhythmias.

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

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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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records