

Ref: FOI2016/3251
Date Received: 17 May 2016
Response Due: 15 June 2016

16th June 2016

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked:

1. What was the average time frame for the Hospital/Trust to acknowledge a referral from a GP for a consultation with a vascular surgeon opinion?

We do not acknowledge routine referrals from GP's, we only acknowledge the suspected cancer referrals.

However as most of our referrals are completed by the e-referral system the GP's know that we have received the referral.

2. Was there a set number of days within which the referral was to be actioned i.e. reviewed by the hospital staff and acted upon rather than just acknowledged? If so, please confirm the time frame.

Again we do not acknowledge the referral, but the referral registration on the Trust PAS system is actioned on the day we receive the referral and then the letters are taken to the consultant for triage

All the e-referrals are actioned daily on behalf of the consultant and either accepted and redirected.

3. Would the patient have been contacted on the same day the GP referral was acknowledged? How would the patient have been contacted – telephone, post or e-mail?

No the patient would not be contacted on the day we receive the referral, sometimes we do not have capacity to book the appointment, the patient would be contacted when we have an appointment to offer them

With the e-referral system many of the patients receive their appointment when they visit the GP or go home to book their own appointment

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4. If a patient is not contacted on the same date as the acknowledgment to the GP, is there a set number of days following the referral from the GP that the Hospital/Trust must contact the patient?

No, we only contact the patient when we have an appointment to offer them

5. Would the time for:

- a. Initial contact with the patient, and
- b. The date for a consultation

have been less if the referral was made on an urgent basis? If so, please confirm the waiting time;

The Trust does try to make any urgent appointments sooner, but again this is dependent on appointment availability

6. After a consultation with the patient what would the average waiting time have been between:-

- a. The consultation and the patient undergoing any further investigations such as arthroscopy;
- b. Those investigations and a final consultation with a patient to determine future treatment (in this case angioplasty); and
- c. That consultation and the angioplasty.

The Average Wait from New Outpatient Clinic Attendance to Vascular Diagnostic Attendance is 34.38 days.

The Average Wait from Vascular Diagnostic Attendance to Follow-Up Outpatient Clinic Attendance is 45.97 days.

We know longer provide an in-patient service. If an in-patient stay is required the referral is sent to the Royal Lancashire Teaching Hospital. The Average Wait from Follow-Up Outpatient Clinic Attendance to Inpatient Admission is 11.5 days

7. In conclusion what was the average time between a referral from a GP for a vascular review (whether (a) on a joint basis or (b) on a routine basis) and the patient undergoing an angioplasty if investigations confirm that he required one?

The Average Wait from GP Referral to Inpatient Admission is 259.5 days.

We have a straight to test in vascular that means that following an initial outpatient assessment there is further time to complete RTT within 18 weeks.

If further tests/treatment are required in the form of angiogram/plasty then the patient is referred on to the Radiology department. They manage this waiting list and although will try and accommodate within 18 weeks due to urgent referrals outside the 18 week pathway may not always have the capacity to accommodate within the 18 week window.

I hope you find this information useful, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Foster

Chief Executive

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If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

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