

# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2025/10603

Date Received: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Response Due: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**This FOI request seeks to establish the types, numbers, costs and timings of Helicobacter pylori tests performed by your Trust (or on its behalf) for primary care providers.**

- 1. Could you please specify the identity of the parts of your Trust for which this FOI is relevant, and for which you are responding.**

Leigh Endoscopy Unit, Leigh Infirmary.  
Endoscopy Unit, RAEI.

- 2. Types of Tests and Providers. Which types of tests relevant for the primary care diagnosis of Helicobacter pylori (e.g., stool antigen test, urea breath test, serology) do you perform within your Trust, or have performed on your behalf by a Third party? If outsourced, could you please specify the Third party used.**

The Helicobacter tests are done using a tissue sample and Helicotec UT Plus Test. The endoscopist can also test for Helicobacter with tissue samples via the laboratory. These are sent to the Salford Royal Laboratory.

- 3. Test Types and Volumes How many Helicobacter pylori tests of each of these types were performed by your Trust or on its behalf in the most recent 12-month period, or other defined accounting period for which data is available?**

Leigh: 2,091 Helicotec UT Plus tests between 01/03/2024 and 01/03/2025.  
RAEI: 344 tests between 01/04/2024 and 01/04/2025.

The Trust is unable to provide the number of samples which have been checked via the Lab as this information is not routinely documented on the ledgers as these are requested direct on the histology request.

**4. Requirements for in-Person Testing Which types of tests required the in-person attendance of the patient at your Trust or its Third-party provider for testing**

For the Helicotec UT Plus, a Gastroscopy is required as a tissue sample is required.

**a. How many such in-person attendances were required**

The patient would be required to attend once for the procedure to test for Helicobacter, unless the patient has repeated infection and does not respond to the antibiotics. These would require repeat procedures and specific sampling to occur. This can result in 2-3 procedures over a period of time.

**b. What was the average time taken between patient arrival and departure?**

Patients will be on the department from a minimum of 30 minutes up to 4 hours, dependant on the list, the procedure and any delays as this can vary from list to list, day to day. On average, most patients are on the department for 1-2 hours.

**5. Turnaround Time for Test Results Specifying each type of Helicobacter pylori test performed by your Trust, or on its behalf, could you please provide the average time (in hours) between receipt of sample to transmission of test result to the GP practice?**

The Helicotec UT Plus results are available after 1 hour. The positive results are communicated via letter to the GP and the patient by the next working day. Negative results are communicated by the GP only. The Trust is currently experiencing a backlog due to admin shortages and are approximately 6 months behind in forwarding negative results.

**6. Test costs and Tariffs For each type of Helicobacter pylori test performed by your Trust or on its behalf, what is the total cost of performing the test to your Trust or the Third party provider (i.e., personnel, infrastructure, reagents and consumables, etc)?**

The Helicotec UT Plus test would cost £6.43 per test, including both the test and the biopsy forceps.

**a. What does your Trust charge for performing each of these tests?**

This information is not available as the Trust cannot identify the helicobacter biopsies from other biopsies in order to establish the cost.

**b. Do these tests correspond to standard NHS tariffs or HRG codes? If so, could you please specify the tariff code and amount charged for each test type.**

Yes, the biopsy test does go to a standard HRG code however this cannot be identified as it could potentially go in 41 price bands. The Trust is unable to identify helicobacter biopsies from other biopsies in coding as they are coded the same.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Morton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sarah Morton  
Divisional Interim Director of Operations & Performance – Medicine Division

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111