

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/10838

Date Received: 13th June 2025

Response Due: 11th July 2025

Date: 1st July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 13th June 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1. For each centre within your trust that provides neonatal care, please answer:

- a. **How many funded neonatal intensive care unit (ICU), neonatal high dependency unit (HDU) and special care baby unit (SCBU) cots are there?**
x1 ICU.
x3 HDU.
x10 SCBU.
- b. **Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist practising in neonatology at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?**
Yes.
- c. **Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist with experience in the provision of parenteral nutrition, where necessary?**
Yes. Additionally, all pharmacists are trained to provide clinical check and dispensing services for neonatal parenteral nutrition as standard.
- d. **Do pharmacists working in neonatal care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?**
Yes, when capacity allows.
- e. **How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) working in neonatal care are active independent prescribers?**
1.

- f. **Does the centre have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?**
Yes.
- g. **Does the centre have 5 day access to an aseptic and CIVA service where this is needed to provide bespoke parenteral nutrition or where there is substantial use of high risk intravenous medications?**
No. The Trust does not have an aseptic or CIVA service.
- h. **Does the centre provide a five day or seven day neonatal service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.**
5-day service.
 - i. **How many clinical pharmacists work in neonatal care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?**
There is 1 Band 8a specialist paediatric pharmacist that would cover the service.
 - ii. **How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the neonatal care (whole time equivalent)?**
Technicians are not allocated specifically to wards, but the Neonatal Unit is serviced each day.

2. Does your trust have a paediatric critical care unit? For each paediatric critical care unit within your trust, please answer:

No. The Trust has a general paediatric ward.

- a. **How many funded paediatric level 2 and level 3 critical care beds are in the unit?**
x2 Level 2 beds.
- b. **Does the unit have access to a senior pharmacist practising in paediatric critical care, funded at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?**
Not in critical care, but we do have x1 Band 8a pharmacist who supports the general paediatric ward, which includes the x2 level 2 beds.
- c. **Do pharmacists working in paediatric critical care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?**
Yes, when capacity allows to the general paediatric ward.
- d. **How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) in the unit are active independent prescribers?**
1.
- e. **Does the unit have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?**
Yes.
- f. **Does the unit provide a five day or seven day service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.**
5-day service, but there is an on call service to support out of hours and availability of staff on weekends, for individual specific requests.

i. **How many clinical pharmacists work in paediatric critical care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?**

There is x1 Band 8a specialist paediatric pharmacist that would cover the general paediatric service, including the x2 level 2 beds.

ii. **How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the unit (whole time equivalent)?**

Technicians are not allocated specifically to wards; however the Neonatal and General Paediatric ward is serviced each day.

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,



Gary Masterman
Associate Director of Pharmacy (Governance Assurance)

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, Wroughtington, 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