



# 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](mailto:foi@wwl.nhs.uk)

Web: [www.wwl.nhs.uk](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2025/10976

Date Received: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

Response Due: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 1<sup>st</sup> August 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:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting aggregate information regarding services provided or commissioned by your Trust in relation to peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP), with a specific focus on:**

- Post-surgical neuropathic pain (PSNP)
- Cancer-related neuropathic pain (CRNP)
- Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN)

**Please break down the information by individual service, clinic, and by hospital site.**

### **1. Patient Numbers & Treatment Modalities (Last 12 Months)**

**For each hospital site or service, please provide:**

**The number of patients seen for each of the following conditions:**

- PSNP
- CRNP (please split into surgically induced and chemotherapy-induced)
- PDPN
- **Please also break this down by hospital department.**

The Trust does not have separate services for these conditions therefore the information is not centrally recorded, we are unable to split the information in your desired categories, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

## **Treatment Modalities**

For each hospital site or service, please indicate Yes or No as to whether the following treatment modalities are available for PNP. Where stated yes please provide patient numbers for the latest 12-month period.

- **Gabapentin prescriptions**

Please redirect your question to GM ICB at [nhsqm.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nhsqm.foi@nhs.net) as the Trust does not hold a record of prescriptions for this medication as many are GP initiated.

- **Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections**

The Trust does not offer Botox for these groups of patients.

- **TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation)**

The Trust does not offer a TENS service.

- **Acupuncture (including PENS – Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation)**

The Trust only offers self-acupuncture. However, this information is not centrally recorded.

- **Theatre-based nerve stimulation procedures (e.g., spinal cord stimulators or other implanted/surgical neuromodulation devices)**

The Trust does not do any implanted devices.

If exact numbers are unavailable, proxy data is acceptable (e.g., the percentage of neuropathic pain patients receiving each treatment modality).

## **2. Service Provision**

Does your Trust or provider offer specific or dedicated services for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN?

- If yes, please list each relevant service or site (e.g., pain clinic, neurology clinic, diabetic foot clinic, community pain service) along with their addresses.

No, the Trust does not offer specific services for these patient groups.

For each listed site or service, please indicate:

- The types of healthcare professionals routinely involved (e.g., pain specialists, neurologists, specialist nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists)

N/A.

- The number of staff per role (headcount or FTE if available)

N/A.

## **3. Referral Pathways & Service Specifications**

Are there established care pathways, referral criteria, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN?

No.

- If yes, please supply relevant documents or summaries.

N/A.

- If not, please clarify whether these conditions fall under broader chronic pain, MSK, diabetes, or oncology pathways.

These patients would fall under general chronic pain.

#### **4. Clinical Guidelines, Protocols, Strategic Plans**

**Has the Trust developed or contributed to any strategic plans, business cases, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?**

No.

**- If so, please provide relevant documents, including any timelines and associated funding information.**

N/A.

**Are there any specific clinical guidelines, care pathways, or treatment protocols in use? For example:**

**- NICE CG173**

**- NEUPSIG**

**- Local pathways for diabetes- or oncology-related neuropathy**

There are no specific guidelines other than NICE guidelines.

**- If yes, please provide copies or summaries of key components.**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg173/chapter/Recommendations>.

#### **5. Funding & Budgets**

**What was the total expenditure on neuropathic pain services in the most recent full financial year?**

Direct expenditure of £1,134,391.

**- If no specific figure is available, please provide overall pain management funding and any known distribution (e.g., primary/community vs secondary care).**

N/A please see the above.

**- Please indicate the type of funding, e.g. tariff or block contract**

The funding is split between tariff and block.

#### **6. Planned or Recent Service Changes**

**Are there any recent, ongoing, or planned changes to:**

**- Commissioning arrangements**

**- Referral pathways**

**- Service structure**

**- Clinical treatment options for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?**

No.

**If yes, please provide details, including the relevant sites, timelines, and the rationale for these changes.**

N/A.

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,



Vicky Bateson  
Senior Directorate Manager - Division of Surgery

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