

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/2025/11006

Date Received: 13th August 2025

Response Due: 11th September 2025

Date: 11th September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 13th August 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:

I am submitting the below FOI request, with a particular focus on the use of the STAK Tool as a treatment for post-operative knee stiffness and arthrofibrosis.

Please note that MUA (Manipulation Under Anaesthesia) coding isn't always consistent and could be coded under Knee exploration, Knee arthroscopy, knee examination, knee stiffness or, potentially, other codes. Furthermore, we are unsure if the STAK Tool has its own code currently, so please could you investigate this.

I would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following questions, where possible:

1. Surgical Interventions for Knee Stiffness

- a. How many patients have undergone Manipulation Under Anaesthesia (MUA) following knee surgery each year for the past 3 years?**

2022/23 = 34.

2023/24 = 31.

2024/25 = 36.

2025/26 = 15.

- b. How many arthrolysis procedures were performed during the same period?**

2022/23 = 0.

2023/24 = 2.

2024/25 = 2.

2025/26 = 0.

- c. **How many revision total knee replacements were conducted due to stiffness or arthrofibrosis?**

2022/23 = 8.

2023/24 = 9.

2024/25 = 9.

2025/26 = 1.

2. Cost of Treatment Pathways

- a. **What is the average cost to each of the following procedures, both within the NHS and privately: MUA procedure, Arthrolysis procedure, Revision total knee replacement (for stiffness)**

MUA procedure = £13,783.

Arthrolysis procedure = £20,467.

Revision total knee replacement (for stiffness) = £15,738.16.

The above average costs have been calculated using all patients, therefore this is based on both private and NHS patients.

- b. **What is the average length of hospital stay for each of the above?**

The Trust does not routinely collect LOS data for MUA/Arthrolysis/Revision knee replacements; therefore, this information is not recorded.

- c. **What is the average number of physiotherapy sessions received by a stiff knee patient and for a patient who has required MUA or post-arthrolysis?**

Unfortunately, the Trusts reporting system does not allow us to predict this. An approximation would be 10 sessions.

3. Rehabilitation Equipment and Costs

- a. **Is there use of other Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) machines or Joint Active Systems (JAS) braces in post-operative rehabilitation, on record? If yes:**

Yes, CPM Machines.

- i. **How many units are currently in use or lease, in the NHS and privately?**

5 CPM Machines are owned by the department.

- ii. **What is the average annual cost for these devices, both within the NHS and privately?**

The Trust pays £375 annually for the maintenance of all the CPM machines, this is not only for the 5 listed above.

- b. **What is the average rehabilitation cost per patient following knee surgery (excluding surgical procedures), including physiotherapy and equipment?**

The Trust can identify the cost of NP and FU appointments but cannot establish the exact amount of sessions patients have, therefore this information is not centrally recorded.

4. Waiting Times and Capacity Pressures

- a. **What is the current average wait time, on the NHS, for:**

- i. **A MUA procedures**

The Trust does not track specific wait times for MUA's, we track the waiting times for sub-speciality and consultants. The average wait time for the lower limb team is approximately 20.8 weeks. This could be reduced if the patients are listed as urgent, rather than routine.

ii. Physiotherapy services post-surgery

None, we see all urgent patients as requested (usually all within 1-2 weeks).

b. Can you identify any backlogs or delays in post-operative rehab related to joint stiffness over the past 3 years?

None all of these patients will be seen as requested by consultant team if referred to Wrightington. The department will see most patients within a week.

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,



Hazel Hendriksen
Divisional Director of Operations for Specialist Services

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