

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/2025/11053

Date Received: 9th September 2025

Response Due: 7th October 2025

Date: 11th September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 9th September 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do not hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Numbers of patient referrals to ENT which reference: 'rhinitis medicamentosa' and/or 'decongestant nasal spray dependency'

I would like to know the number of referrals to ENT specialists at this NHS Trust between August 2018 and August 2025, which have related to a patient suffering with rhinitis medicamentosa, also known as decongestant nasal spray dependency.

Please provide me with the following information if possible:

1. Number of patients referrals to an ENT specialist referencing rhinitis medicamentosa AND/OR nasal spray overuse/dependency at this Trust between August 2018 and August 2025

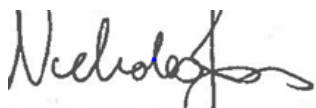
The Trust does receive these referrals however as they are received and placed in general clinics via a generic pathway, we are unable to identify the volume of referrals received referencing rhinitis medicamentosa and/or nasal spray overuse/dependency. Therefore, the Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, 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.

2. If possible, also indicate how many of such referrals resulted in a patient undergoing surgery

The Trust does not operate on patients with the condition as the commissioning guidance specifically mentions that rhinitis medicamentosa must be excluded.

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 'Nicholas Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas Jones
Directorate Manager for 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