

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/9705

Date Received: 11th March 2024

Response Due: 10th April 2024

Date: 9th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to your request for information received on 11th March 2024, 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:

Please consult with cardiology, neurology, emergency medicine, care of the elderly and paediatrics specialties to provide the information requested.

1. How many patients are referred to your Trust annually with a suspected diagnosis of PoTS and how many diagnosed PoTS patients are under active care under specialties within the Trust?

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. Is there evidence of an increase in referrals of PoTS patients since May 2020 due to patients suffering with long-Covid?

No audits have been completed the Trust cannot provide an answer.

3. How many patients with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of PoTS are seen annually in the Emergency Department or admitted as an emergency?

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.

4. To which individual specialty or specialties are PoTS patients referred for investigation, diagnosis and longer-term management? e.g., cardiology, neurology, care of the elderly, paediatrics. Please specify separately for children and adults, where applicable.

Cardiology.

5. **Within your Trust do a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients diagnosed with PoTS have access to a specialised PoTS clinic or service for treatment by dedicated clinicians with an interest/expertise in the condition?**

If so, please provide details of specialised adult and paediatric services in place.

The Trust does not have dedicated PoTS clinics.

6. **Where dedicated PoTS services are available within your Trust, are there any restrictions in place around acceptance of new referrals or longer-term management of patients? Please specify any restrictions imposed.**

N/A

7. **If no specialist PoTS services are in place within your Trust, do you reject referrals (back to referring GP), accept referrals under general acute services e.g., cardiology / neurology (please specify) or refer on to a known specialist service elsewhere? (please specify where).**

The cardiologists see POTS patients.

8. **How is activity coded for adult and paediatric patients with a diagnosis of PoTS attending for a first or follow up outpatient appointment or admitted to inpatient care?**

The Trust only codes patients who have been admitted to hospital/admitted to inpatient care. We do not code people who just attend A & E or people who are outpatients. We use ICD10 codes.

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,



Paritosh Desai
Divisional Director of Operations & Performance (Medicine)

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