

# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2024/9906

Date Received: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Response Due: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 4<sup>th</sup> June 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:

1. **For patients being treated for wet-AMD, what tariffs do you apply? I am interested to know:**
  - a. **Do you use national tariffs for outpatient appointments, scans, and for treatments. If so, which ones do you use? Please provide HRG codes where possible.**  
The Trust uses locally agreed tariffs for Lucentis appointment (see details below).
  - b. **If locally negotiated tariffs are used, please provide details of these. If 'bundled' (e.g. include treatments/scans etc), please advise on what is included in the cost. If 'unbundled' (e.g. each element is costed separately), please advise on the locally agreed price for each element**

Division	POD	Specialty	HRG Code	HRG Description	Tariff £
Surgery	Lucentis	Ophthalmology	LA	Initial / Extended Assessment and Treatment	Being withheld under Section 43.
Surgery	Lucentis	Ophthalmology	LAO	Ozurdex	
Surgery	Lucentis	Ophthalmology	LB	Re-assessment with treatment	
Surgery	Lucentis	Ophthalmology	LCFIRST	First Assessment no treatment	
Surgery	Lucentis	Ophthalmology	LCFOLLOW	Reassessment no treatment	

\*The drugs are recovered at actual costs due to being high-cost drugs.

2. **NICE guidance advises that patients referred for Wet AMD should start treatment within 14 days of referral. Please could you advise what percentage of Wet AMD patients commence treatment within 14 days of referral at your Trust?**  
80%

### 3. What is the average wait to be seen from the point of referral for Wet-AMD at your Trust?

10 days.

#### Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding the costs has been withheld under section 43(2) of the FOIA if its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

Section 43 of the FOIA is a qualified exemption and is subject to the Prejudice Test and the Public Interest Test.

#### Prejudice test

We confirm that we have carried out a full prejudice test and that, on the balance of probability, the Trust's interests would be prejudiced in the event of disclosure. Therefore, we confirm that the Prejudice Test is engaged.

#### Public interest test

We have also carried out the Public Interest Test to ascertain whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in withholding the requested information:

Public interest in disclosure of the information:

- We acknowledge that there is public interest in transparency around how the Trust engages with suppliers and procurement.
- We acknowledge that there is public interest in the Trust's finances.

Public interest in withholding of the information:

- **Protecting public finances** – As a public authority, the Trust must ensure that it obtains the best value for money. Disclosure of the information would be likely to affect the quality of future offers provided to the Trust. It is therefore firmly in the public interest not to disclose any information which would affect commercial offers made to the Trust, which in turn will affect the Trust's finances.
- **Ensuring fair competition** – Information provided to the Trust during the procurement process contains sensitive competition information. It is not in the public interest to disclose information which would affect free and fair competition.
- **Transparency** – We understand that there is public interest in how the Trust engages with suppliers. However, we consider that the information held by the Trust would not significantly further the public understanding of its relationship with these suppliers beyond what has already been disclosed in this response.
- **Reputation damage or loss of confidence** - It is firmly in the public interest that the Trust takes all steps to protect its reputation around information handling. It is not in the public interest to do anything which would jeopardise our ability to maintain strong working relationships with third parties.

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,



Kelly Knowles  
Operational Director of Finance

**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