



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-698

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email 15th January 2025 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Clinical Coding

On the same day we contacted you via email with the following.  
To continue with your request we require clarification on what timeframe you are referring to.

On the same day you replied via email with.  
'FY 23/24 please'

**Q1 How many clinical episodes does your Trust record on average each month or over an annual period?**

A1 The Trust record on average the following number of clinical episodes each month / an annual period.  
315,587 episodes in 2023/24 for UHNM  
Additional 12,132 episodes via service level agreement (SLA)  
Total 327,719 coded

**Q2 What is the size of your clinical coding team?**

A2 Please see below.  
9.54 whole time equivalent (WTE) Trainee Coders  
29.26 WTE Lead Coders  
2.8 WTE Team Managers  
3.8 WTE Auditors, Trainer, Information Improvement Lead  
1 WTE Deputy Head

**Q3 Is the coding team focused on coding clinical episodes within inpatient, outpatient, or A&E (Emergency Care) – or all of the above? Any other settings or niche areas that are coded by this team?**

A3 The coding team focus on coding clinical episodes within inpatient settings.

**Q4 On average, how many systems do coding teams need to access and review to code a typical episode?**

A4 The Trust has an average of 4 systems.

**Q5 What is the average time spent on coding a clinical episode?**

A5 The average time spent on coding a clinical episode is approximately 5.5 episodes per hour.

**Q6 What is the maximum time spent on coding a clinical episode?**

A6 The Trust is unable to quantify due to varying complexity of each episode / patient spell.

**Q7 On average, what number or percentage of episodes go uncoded?**

A7 On average, the number or percentage of episodes that go uncoded is 13% at the final submission.

**Q8 On average, what number or percentage of episodes are not coded to sufficient detail?**

A8 On average, the number or percentage of episodes that are not coded to sufficient detail is 0.8%.

**Q9 What are the main reasons why episodes go uncoded or are not coded to sufficient detail?**

A9 Please see below for the main reasons why episodes go uncoded or are not coded to sufficient detail:

- Resource issues within the team, including the need to recruit Trainee coders to replace experienced Coders,
- Incomplete information documented.

**Q10 Who is the budget holder for clinical coding team and/or what is their role?**

A10 Head of Data Quality and Clinical Coding.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries relating to the response please contact my office

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



**Leah Carlisle**  
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records  
Data Protection Officer