

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-391

Date: 4th October 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th September 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Diagnostic tests

Q1 The Alliance for Heart Failure is keen to understand the extent to which diagnostic tests for heart failure are being used in Community Diagnostic Hubs. This information is to be used as part of our campaign to improve early diagnosis and uptake of NICE guidance, and positively benefit patient outcomes.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

Availability of NT-proBNP testing

- How many Community Diagnostic Centres are currently operational in your area?
- Is NT-proBNP testing for suspected heart failure currently available within local Community Diagnostic Centres? (please specify if any local Community Diagnostic Centres do not offer NT-proBNP testing)
- If NT-proBNP testing for suspected heart failure is not currently available, are there any plans to introduce it in future?

A1 The Stoke-on-Trent Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) is currently in development and is not yet built and operational. Operational planning and the full range of diagnostic tests available is still being clarified.

Q2 Testing Volume

- How many NT-proBNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2024?
- How many BNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2024?
- How many patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure have accessed the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2024?

A2 The Stoke-on-Trent Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) is currently in development and is not yet built and operational. Operational planning and the full range of diagnostic tests available is still being clarified.

Q3 Guidelines

- **What guidelines are in place for the local Community Diagnostic Centre to follow in relation to administering BNP and or NT-proBNP tests for patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?**
- **What referral pathways should be followed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre in relation to patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?**

A3 The Stoke-on-Trent Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) is currently in development and is not yet built and operational. Operational planning and the full range of diagnostic tests available is still being clarified.

Q4 Targets/metrics

- **What assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of local population need and the likely demand for BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing for patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?**
- **Based on local demographics, what assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of the number of patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure that should be seen by the centre on an annual basis?**

A4 The Stoke-on-Trent Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) is currently in development and is not yet built and operational. Operational planning and the full range of diagnostic tests available is still being clarified.

Q5 Scaling up

- **What assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of the need to increase access to BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing – including projections of growing need and increases in the number of people at risk of heart failure?**
- **What assessment has been made of the barriers that may impact the ability of local Community Diagnostic Centres to meet future demands for access to BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing?**
- **What assessment has been made of additional resources required by local Community Diagnostic Centres to meet rising demand for BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing over the next 12 months; 18 months; and 5 years?**
- **What resource has been allocated to local Community Diagnostic Centres for the acquirement of point of care testing capabilities and administration of BNP and/or NT-proBNP tests?**

I would like you to provide this information in the following format:

In an Excel spreadsheet with information broken down by each CDC in your area

A5 The Stoke-on-Trent Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) is currently in development and is not yet built and operational. Operational planning and the full range of diagnostic tests available is still being clarified.

*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 related to the response provided please in the first instance 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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records