



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-093

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Tel: 01782 676474  
Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding NIPT tests.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 We are contacting a small number of Trusts to gain an insight into NIPT testing for the last two years 16/17 & 17/18.**

**Do you carry out NIPT testing?**

A1 Yes

**Q2 Numbers of cases of Down's syndrome detected**

A2 6

**Q3 Numbers of invasive tests (probes, needles inserted into uterus, chorionic villus sampling)**

A3 5 amniocentesis

**Q4 Numbers of miscarriages avoided**

A4 Information not held

**Q5 Numbers of pregnancy outcomes**

A5 All patients who tested positive following amniocentesis requested termination of pregnancy.

**Q6 Costs associated with implementation of NIPT**

A6 The cost was minimal. The equipment, training and SOPs' were provided by third party provider. Patient information was also provided and this was adapted locally. The main cost

was approximately £300 for the first run of patient information leaflets in addition the time spent for preparation of material to maintain adherence to local governance policies.

**Q7 Could we have a copy of your care pathway?**

A7 Please see attached SOP

**Q8 Are tests undertaken in the first or second trimester?**

A8 After 10 weeks when the fetal fraction is at a sufficient level to minimise redraw.

**Q9 What resources are used e.g. separate areas designated for clinics, consumables, consultant, midwives & nursing time?**

A9 The Trust has the offers the following:

- Counselling room
- Midwifery time
- Telephone discussion.
- Fetal medicine resources for persistent redraw or ambiguous results and amniocentesis for high risk results

**Q10 Do you also cover patients outside of your catchment areas?**

A10 Yes

**Q11 What is included within governance and standard operating procedures?**

A11 Testing for trisomy 13, 18 and 21 and sex chromosomes is included. The Trust has protocols for sharing information with outside agencies and indications for referral to fetal medicine.

**Q12 Are any other treatments provided? If yes please state what they are**

A12 Combined nuchal translucency and quadruple testing are provided as part of the NHS antenatal care pathway.

**Q13 Why was the service set up?  
Is it part of maternity baseline activities or was there a business case?  
Can we have a copy?**

A13 The service was established when it became clear that the national screening committee was likely to institute high risk NIPT testing and against a backdrop of increasing demand for patients. There was an initial proposal, estimation of uptake and impact assessment produced for divisional governance and our Caldecott Guardian. A business case was not seen as necessary given the relatively small expenditure necessary for set up.

\*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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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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mojgan Casillas', written over a large, light-colored oval shape.

Mojgan Casillas  
**Interim Information Governance Manager**



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust