

Please contact: Access to Information
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6 March 2024

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Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-3869-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 15 February 2024.

We can confirm that the ICB does not hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

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.

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*

1. 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?

2. Testing Volume

- How many NT-proBNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2023?
- How many BNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2023?
- How many patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure have accessed the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2023?

3. 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?

4. 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?

5. 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?

This information is not held by the ICB. Please redirect to the following providers as they may hold the information you require:

<https://elht.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information>

<https://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information>

<https://www.uhmb.nhs.uk/our-trust/freedom-information>

<https://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/our-services/information-governance/model-publication-scheme/>

Right of Appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within 40 working days from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net or by post to Leyland House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Professor Craig Harris

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery
ICB Chief Executive**