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Darlington Memorial Hospital
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Request for Information Reference: 09.18.28

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Email only

15 October 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 24 September 2018 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding the treatment of thumb arthritis. Specifically you asked for:

Question 1

Please could you send us your current policies for treatment (surgical and/or injection) of base of thumb arthritis including any funding criteria.

Answer: The Trust does not have any policies about "base of thumb" arthritis

Question 2

Please could you send us any older policies including funding criteria for treatment of base of thumb arthritis from 1998 to present day.

Answer: The Trust does not have any older policies.

Question 3

If not included in the policy what criteria is used to categorise severity of base of thumb arthritis into mild moderate or severe.

Answer: There are no criteria to divide the severity into mild, moderate and severe, but there is a commonly used classification to describe the extent which is not the same as severity. The classification is the Eaton and Littler classification which goes from stage 1 to 4.

The four stages of the Eaton-Littler classification

Stage	Description
I	Subtle carpometacarpal joint space widening
II	Slight carpometacarpal joint space narrowing, sclerosis, and cystic changes with osteophytes or loose bodies < 2 mm
III	Advanced carpometacarpal joint space narrowing, sclerosis, and cystic changes with osteophytes or loose bodies > 2 mm
IV*	Arthritic changes in the carpometacarpal joint as in Stage III with scaphotrapezoidal arthritis

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer