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Request for Information Reference: 12.18.15

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Email only

14 January 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 14 December 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 cardiac services. Specifically you requested information as follows:

If you cover more than one hospital/CCG, please provide the following information for each of the hospitals/CCGs covered under your trust broken down individually

Please supply details of:

- 1. Any care pathways for the investigation and management of patients with symptomatic palpitations and/or syncope referred to cardiac services in your Trust by GPs? Of particular interest is the role and positioning of diagnostic investigations such as cardiac rhythm monitoring, cardiac imaging and cardiovascular performance assessment?***

Answer: County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is a provider organisation. The Trust offer a non-medically led palpitations service to North Durham, patients are assessed and any investigations are organised. This is direct access to GP's. In the South of the Trust GP's have commissioned access to Holter investigations via a private provider.

- 2. Details of both national and locally negotiated tariff arrangements applied to this service?***

Answer: Locally negotiated tariff of palpitations service. The Trust does not have information in respect of the holter tariff.

3. Does the GP have direct access to the cardiac monitoring service?

Answer: Yes, via private provider.

4. Is the patient seen by a cardiologist before having the monitor attached?

Answer: Not if via palpitation service. Yes if via general cardiology referral.

5. If not, who undertakes the process (e.g. technician, nurse etc.)?

Answer: Cardiac Physiologist if via palpitations service.

6. What is the first pass monitoring technology (e.g. 24hr, 48hr, 7-day event triggered etc.)

Answer: Monitoring will be determined by frequency of symptoms

7. What happens after the first pass monitoring, are all seen by a cardiologist or is there a pre-appointment triage process?

Answer: If via palpitations service, onward referrals would be upto the GP, although this is advised if significant arrhythmia detected.

8. What other tests are ordered (e.g. 12-lead ECG, Echo etc), at which stage in the pathway and for which patients?

Answer: If via palpitations service, other tests are organised as indicated by the assessment.

9. What determines who is selected for 2nd pass monitoring and what technology is used for this?

Answer: As above this is determined by symptom frequency. These could be 7 day continuous, event monitor for 1 month or implantable device

10. What determines who is discharged back to the GP?

Answer: Dependent on assessment and outcome of tests.

11. What is the current tariff for 24 hr, 48 hr, 7-day Holter Monitoring?

Answer: No direct access to holter within the Trust (private provider), if there was it would be determined by PbR.

12. What is the tariff for referral to community cardiology investigation clinics?

Answer: N/A.

13. What is the tariff for direct referrals for GPs for 24hr, 48 hr and 7-day Holter Monitoring?

Answer: N/A.

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