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Darlington Memorial Hospital
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Request for Information Reference: 01.19.38

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Email only

13 February 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 16 January 2019 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 sickle cell patients. Specifically you requested information as follows:

May you please supply me with the following information.

1. The number of sickle cell patients admitted to Trust hospitals per year, between the years 2008 and 2018

Year	Count
2008	10
2009	11
2010	7
2011	7
2012	7
2013	8
2014	10
2015	15
2016	6
2017	13
2018	7

2. Of these patients, how many were admitted via A&E and how many admitted via planned care settings (such as hospital outpatient or clinic appointments and day unit hospital admission)

Admission Code	Admission Method Description	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
12	Booked					3		2	1	1	5	
13	Planned			1	4	3	4	7	12	2	5	
21	A&E Or Dental Casualty Department	2		1	1				2	3	2	6
22	General Practitioner				1	1	3	1				
24	Consultant Clinic	8	11	5	1							
28	Other Means						1				1	
81	Transfer From Other Provider (Not Emerg)											1

3. The number of Thalassaemia patients admitted to Trust hospitals per year, between the years 2008 and 2018

Year	Count
2011	2
2012	2
2014	2
2015	1

Note: for the years 2016-2018 there has been no activity

4. Of these patients, how many were admitted via A&E and how many admitted via planned care settings (such as hospital outpatient or clinic appointments and day unit hospital admission)

Admission Code	Admission Method Description	2011	2012	2014	2015
12	Booked	1			
13	Planned	1	1	2	
22	General Practitioner		1		
24	Consultant Clinic				1

Note: for the years 2016-2018 there has been no activity

5. The number of complaints received by the Trust, per year between 2008-2018 regarding the care and treatment of sickle cell patients

Answer: With regards to questions 5, 6 & 7 the Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number of complaints would require the review of all complaints over 10 years which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

6. The number of complaints received by the Trust, per year between 2008-2018, regarding the care and treatment of Thalassaemia patients

Answer Please see above

7. Has the Trust implemented any changes to care of Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell patients in response to any complaints throughout the 10 year period

Answer: Please see above.

8. The number of specialist Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia clinics or centres operating within Trust hospitals

Answer: The Trust has no specialist SCT clinics

9. The number of specialist haematologists and nurses working within these Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia clinics or centres

Answer: None

10. The number of specialist haematologists and nurses working within Trust hospitals as a whole

Answer: There are 4 clinical haematologists and 4 haematology specialist nurses (plus one vacant consultant post) across the Trust, not solely with SCT but general haematology/ transfusion

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