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Request for Information Reference: 03.19.20

Direct line: 01325 743700  
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Email only

1 April 2019

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 29 November 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 venous leg ulcers. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***a) Do you have a formal patient pathway for the management of venous leg ulcers?***

Answer: No. The Trust follows the NICE guidelines but no formal pathway.

***b) Do you have a multi-disciplinary team for the management of venous leg ulcers? If so can you list who is involved in that team?***

Answer: No.

***c) For patients with chronic leg ulcers can you state who would generally be the lead clinician on their care?***

Answer: Consultant vascular surgeon or Consultant dermatologist.

***d) Do you have a lead clinician for venous conditions? If so, please provide a name, job title, postal address, email address and telephone number? This information would only be used for limited communications in the furtherance of its policy aim to improve venous care across the country.***

Answer: Darren Hird, Vascular Nurse consultant - [darrenhird@nhs.net](mailto:darrenhird@nhs.net)

***e) How many patients with chronic venous leg ulcers did you treat in i) 2012/13, ii) 2013/14, iii) 2014/15, iv) 2015/16, v) 2016/17, vi) 2017/18 (treat should be defined as any form of treatment: from dressing to surgery and everything in between)?***

Answer: Location of primary diagnosis for Venous Leg Ulcers regardless of whether they had a procedure or not:

Year	Episodes
2012/2013	49
2013-2014	29
2014/2015	36
2015/2016	42
2016/2017	51
2017/2018	45

***f) How many patients with chronic leg ulcers did you refer to vascular or a venous surgeon in i) 2012/13, ii) 2013/14, iii) 2014/15, iv) 2015/16, v) 2016/17, vi) 2017/18***

Answer: To gather the information requested it would require a member of staff to manually examine hundreds of sets of patient notes which would take a number of days. 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 a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

***g) How many surgical procedures related to venous leg ulcers has your trust performed in i) 2012/13, ii) 2013/14, iii) 2014/15, iv) 2015/16, v) 2016/17, vi) 2017/18***

Answer: The below table shows where the Primary diagnosis was for Venous Leg Ulcers and the patient had a surgical procedure.

Year	Episodes
2012/2013	20
2013-2014	12
2014/2015	9
2015/2016	17
2016/2017	16
2017/2018	24

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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
Freedom of Information Officer