

Ref: FOI/2025/10463

Date Received: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Response Due: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

## Services

**Q1. Does your Trust currently provide a vascular service for the diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases, specifically including vascular surgery and interventional vascular radiology?**

Yes

No

Yes. WWL provides outpatient and day case management for vascular diseases. Inpatient and out-of-hours vascular surgeon care is provided by Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

**Q2. If vascular services are available, is your organisation designated as a specialist vascular care centre or a hub centre within the network of care providers? (please select all that apply)**

***Specialist services: providing diagnostics and expert advice in an outpatient setting and providing elective and 24/7 emergency vascular services.***

***Hub centre: providing diagnostics and expert advice in an outpatient setting.***

Specialist centre

Hub

**Other (Please specify)** .....

Other. WWL is a 'spoke site' of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Vascular Network. Unlike other spoke sites without our network and throughout the country, outpatient and day case activity is managed and governed by WWL, rather than the Network hub Trust.

### **Claudication clinics**

***Intermittent claudication:*** Intermittent claudication is the most common clinical symptom associated with peripheral arterial disease — walking (exercise) induced pain in the lower limbs caused by diminished circulation that is relieved by rest.

**Q3. In your organisation, are there specific claudication clinics for patients with intermittent claudication?**

**Yes**

**No – If no please skip to question Q10**

No. Patients with intermittent claudication are seen in 'general' vascular surgery clinics.

### **Exercise**

**Q10. Are patients with intermittent claudication who attend your Trust offered a supported exercise programme specifically designed for claudication? Please select all that apply.**

**Yes**

**No**

**Verbal advice only**

Verbal advice only. Historically, WWL has provided physiotherapist-led supervised exercise classes for 12 weeks. This ended during the Covid-19 pandemic and was never re-established, due to lack of access to gym space and resourcing for the physiotherapy team. Currently, patients are reviewed by our Senior Vascular Physiotherapist and given verbal and written advice only.

**Q11. What is the format of the exercise programme for patients with claudication? Please select all that apply.**

**Supervised classes in hospital or community setting**

**Virtual Supervised classes at home**

**App based directed exercise at home**

**Home/Unsupervised**

**Don't Know**

Home/Unsupervised.

**Q12. If a structured programme exists, where is this programme provided?**

**Your hospital/ Trust, i.e within your organisation**

**Another hospital/ Trust, i.e outside your organisation**

**Referral to primary care setting outside your organisation**

**Referral to a private setting outside your organisation**

**Other (Please specify) .....**

There is no structured programme.

**Q13. Over what duration do these supervised exercise programmes typically last for patients diagnosed with claudication?**

**4-8 weeks**

**12-16 weeks**

**More frequently than all the above options (Please specify) .....**

**Less frequently than all the above options (Please specify) .....**

This does not currently exist.

**Q14. How long are the classes (in minutes)?**

**30-60 minutes**

**60-90 minutes**

**More frequently than all the above options (Please specify) .....**

**Less frequently than all the above options (Please specify) .....**

This does not currently exist.

**Q15. How often/frequently (times per week) do the classes meet?**

- Once per week**
- Every 2–4 weeks**
- Every 2–4 months**
- Less frequently than all the above options**
- Other (Please specify) .....**

This does not currently exist.

**Q16. Which healthcare professionals are involved in delivering the classes? Please select all that apply.**

- Physiotherapist**
- Nurse**
- Exercise professional**
- Other (Please specify) .....**

This does not currently exist.

**Smoking**

**Q17. In your organisation, where do you offer a smoking cessation service to patients with intermittent claudication?**

- Your hospital/ Trust, i.e within your organisation**
- Another hospital/ Trust, i.e outside your organisation**
- Referral to primary care setting outside your organisation**
- Referral to a private setting outside your organisation**
- Other (Please specify) .....**

Currently, refer to GP however previously it was local authority/council run service.

**Dietetics**

**Q18. In your organisation, where do you offer a dietetics service to patients with intermittent claudication?**

- Your hospital/ Trust, i.e within your organisation**
- Another hospital/ Trust, i.e outside your organisation**
- Referral to primary care setting outside your organisation**
- Referral to a private setting outside your organisation**
- Other (Please specify) .....**

No. To date, this has not formed part of our treatment pathway.

**Psychology**

**Q19. Does your organisation offer a psychology service specific for patients with intermittent claudication?**

- Yes**
- No – If no please skip to question Q21**

No.

**Referral**

**Q21 What are the available pathways or methods by which patients with intermittent claudication are referred to the vascular service in your organisation? Please select all that apply:**

- Vascular staff screen lists of hospital ward patients**
- A telephone/pager referral system**
- A paper referral form (collected in person/faxed/posted)**
- Secure email system**
- Electronic computerised system (e.g. patient record system)**
- Other (Please specify) .....**

Secure email – to secretarial team.

Electronic referral system – ‘patient pass’ and ‘choose and book’.

Paper referrals by post.

**Q22. Is there a standard proforma for referral to vascular?**

- Yes**

**No**

**Other (Please specify)** .....

No.

Please note: Your questions have been answered with assistance from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Arya  
Medical Director

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111