

Ref: FOI/2024/10225

Date Received: 21st October 2024

Response Due: 18th November 2024

Date: 18th November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 21st October 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1a) Is a multi-disciplinary chronic pain service provided by the Trust? (if yes, please continue to question 2, if no please answer question 1b)

Yes, there is an MDT chronic pain service provided by the Trust.

1b) Where is chronic pain being managed in your organisation for people with:

- i) Cancer tumour related pain (i.e. people with a current oncological or haematological cancer diagnosis who are experiencing pain)**
- ii) Cancer related late effects pain or chronic pain caused by cancer treatments (i.e. pain caused by chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery)**

Most referrals to our pain service do not have cancer related pain.

Where patients are referred to our service, often the cancer is incidentally present and not often related to the pain for which they are seeking treatment. Where the pain is cancer related, most initial symptom management is carried out by oncologists administering the treatments concerned. However depending on the cause of the pain symptoms, treatment may be sought from various specialists in the wider NHS networks - sometimes this can involve treatment from radiotherapy (trying to shrink the cancer and the symptoms it is giving), orthopaedic surgeons – if there is a pathological fracture that they can treat, neurosurgeons if there is neurological source for the pain that they can treat, and of course assistance from palliative care. Locally sometimes palliative care seeks assistance from the pain clinic for specialised injection therapies. Again, some of these treatments can sometimes be delivered locally and sometimes elsewhere.

2) Is the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service based in an acute hospital or a community setting? (please expand if needed)

The chronic pain service is delivered in Acute hospitals. Leigh Infirmary, Wrightington Hospital and Thomas Linacre outpatients.

3) What is the current waiting time from referral to first appointment at the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service?

8-10 months.

4) Since October 2022, how many people did the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service see with:

- i) Cancer tumour related pain (i.e. people with a current oncological or haematological cancer diagnosis who are experiencing pain)**
- ii) Cancer related late effects pain or chronic pain caused by cancer treatments (i.e. pain caused by chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery)**

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

5) Can you please provide demographic information (% gender, age range and % ethnicity) for those seen in the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service with:

- i) Cancer tumour related pain (i.e. people with a current oncological or haematological cancer diagnosis who are experiencing pain)**

Gender:

Age range:

Ethnicity:

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

- ii) Cancer related late effects pain or chronic pain caused by cancer treatments (i.e. pain caused by chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery)**

Gender:

Age range:

Ethnicity:

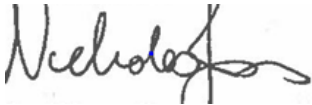
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6) If you cannot answer question 5, can you please explain why?

The chronic pain service does not routinely capture the information alluded to in questions 4 and 5.

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,



Nicholas Jones
Interim Director of Operations and Performance

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