

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9

Buckingham Row

Brick Kiln Lane

Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2023/9103

Date Received: 2nd August 2023

Response Due: 30th August 2023

Date: 25th August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

- Overall based on the total number of referrals, what is your minimum, maximum and median waiting times in days from the date referral received to initial appointment with healthcare professional regarding treatment for varicose veins. Please provide this information for each calendar year for the past five years.

Referral to 1st Appointment	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Minimum Days Wait	<5	7	<5	16	<5
Median Days Wait	24	67	168	56	67
Maximum Days Wait	95	114	210	209	210
Total Number of Referrals	25	86	54	<5	170

- Overall based on the total number of referrals, what is your minimum, maximum and median waiting times in days from the date referral received to a surgical procedure to treat varicose veins. Please provide this information for each calendar year for the past five years.

Referral to Surgical Procedure	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Minimum Days Wait	87	36	90	59	36
Median Days Wait	279	399	454	169	403
Maximum Days Wait	785	741	586	340	785
Total Number of Referrals	25	86	54	<5	170

3. What is the total number of annual referrals for treatment for varicose veins each year for the past five years?

Total Number of Annual Referrals	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Number of Referrals	25	86	54	<5	170

4. How many surgeries for varicose veins have been performed each year for the past five years?

Total Number of Surgeries	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Number of Surgeries	44	107	61	79	291

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

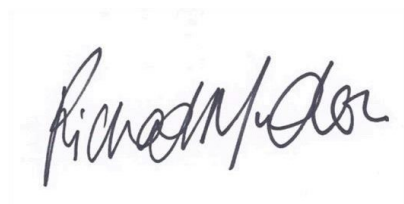
To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

Please be advised the Trust is unable to provide the data for the past 5 years as the RTT process changed in 2020 therefore data before this would not be entirely accurate.

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,



Richard Mundon
Director of Strategy and Planning

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