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Request for Information Reference: 12.22.17

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

6th January 2023

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 9th December 2022 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to Community Optometrists and Other Eye Care Services and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

We would like to publish data that we have gathered in the FOI from ICBs/Trusts on our study webpage, other media, conferences and peer-reviewed journals. This will include:

- 1. Maps of England showing in which ICB/CCG regions there are MECS, CUES, Community Optometrists and other eye care services**
- 2. Summary data of how referrals are made from primary to secondary care**
- 3. Network map of the route of referrals from primary to secondary care**
- 4. Percentage of primary eye care services (MECS, CUES, Community optometrists) able to make direct referrals to secondary care**
- 5. Percentage of ICBs/CCG regions utilising screening methods before referrals reach secondary care**

The Trust does not hold information on referrals from primary care. NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) should be the first point of contact for this information. If you wish to contact the ICB, we would advise, in accordance with Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), that you contact the organisation via the following address:

Information Governance Team
North of England Commissioning Support

John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Email: necsu.ICBfoi@nhs.net

6. Summary data for the typical urgency for referral and timeframes for papilloedema/papilloedema with headache/headache

Disc swelling and disc swelling with headache are seen by Ophthalmology within 24 hours. Headache referrals are not accepted by Ophthalmology.

7. Summary data of established referral pathways or guidelines for papilloedema or headache

Referrers have a “suspected papilloedema pathway” referral form to email to our Urgent Care Clinic.

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 on the Trust’s website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator