

Executive Corridor  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX  
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100  
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 08.21.17

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021 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 MS Coding and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. Are your patients coded for the different sub types of MS (multiple sclerosis), Relapse remitting, primary progressive and secondary?**

**Please answer Yes, No, coding planned, partial coding, all patients coded**

No

- 2. For secondary progressive MS are your patients coded?**

**Please answer No coding, coding planned, partial coding, all patients coded**

No

- 3. What proportion of your MS patients have a diagnosis of secondary progressive MS (within all MS diagnosed patients)?**

**Please answer Unknown, <10%, 10-20%, 21-30%, 31-40%, >50%**

Unknown

- 4. For MS patients requiring an MRI, what is the average waiting time?**

**Please answer <1 month, 2 – 3 months, 4 – 6 months, >6 months**

< 1 month (as an acute inpatient).

**5. For MS patients requiring an OCT, what is the average waiting time?**

**Please answer <1 month, 2 – 3 months, 4 – 6 months, >6 months**

The trust does not offer Optical Coherence Tomography.

**6. For MS patients what is the average waiting time for IV MS treatment?**

**Please answer <1 month, 2 – 3 months, 4 – 6 months, >6 months**

The trust does not prescribe IV MS treatments.

**7. When a patient has been diagnosed with MS, what is the average time from diagnosis of MS to initiate treatment?**

The trust does not prescribe disease modifying therapies.

**8. How many unscheduled admissions have there been for patients with a diagnosis of MS in any position between April – June 2021?**

**Please answer with the number of admissions**

There have been 19 unscheduled admissions for patients with a diagnosis of MS between April and June 2021.

**9. How many MS patients are being treated in neurology rehab?**

**Please answer the number of patients**

The trust does not have a dedicated Neurology Rehab Service.

**10. Of the patients in Question 8, how many are being treated with an MS disease modifying drug?**

**Please answer with the number of patients**

The trust does not provide neurology services to treat MS patients with disease modifying drugs.

**11. How many MS patients are in the following EDSS (Expanded Disability Status Scale) groups?**

1 – 3.5, 3.5 – 6.5, >7

EDSS used by Neurology specific for MS and the Trust does not have its own Neurology Service.

**12. How many of your physicians can initiate MS disease modifying drug treatment? If possible please supply the physicians name**

CDDFT does not initiate DMT rather patients are referred to prescribing centres such as Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle and James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough and occasionally Sunderland Royal Hospital, Sunderland.

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

Yours sincerely

**Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator**