

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–101

NECS – John Snow House
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By Email

27 June 2024

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 4 June 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your Trust. Please may you provide me with an answer to the following:

I am enquiring about ophthalmology – specifically tariffs related to the treatment of patients with Wet age-related macular degeneration. When diagnosed, patients require treatment involving regular injections into the eye and repeated OCT scans. The questions I have are as follows:

For patients being treated by providers for wet-AMD, what tariffs do you apply?

I am interested to know:

- a. Do you use national tariffs for outpatient appointments, scans, and for treatments. If so, which ones do you use? Please provide HRG codes where possible.
- b. If locally negotiated tariffs are used, please provide details of these. If 'bundled' (e.g. include treatments/scans etc), please advise on what is included in the cost. If 'unbundled' (e.g. each element is costed separately), please advise on the locally agreed price for each element

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

- a) Based on data received into NENC ICB, the following Healthcare Resource Group (HRGs) are used and all use national tariff guidance/prices:

2024/25 guidance link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/2023-25-nhs-payment-scheme/>
See document Annex A (BZ HRGs prices can be viewed on tab '1 APC & OPROC' and WF HRG prices can be viewed on tab '2 Outpatients' for Treatment Function Code 130.

Procedures

BZ84A	Major Vitreous Retinal Procedures, 19 years and over, with CC Score 2+
BZ84B	Major Vitreous Retinal Procedures, 19 years and over, with CC Score 0-1
BZ86A	Intermediate Vitreous Retinal Procedures, 19 years and over, with CC Score 2+
BZ86B	Intermediate Vitreous Retinal Procedures, 19 years and over, with CC Score 0-1
BZ86C	Intermediate Vitreous Retinal Procedures, 18 years and under

Scans

BZ88A	Retinal Tomography, 19 years and over
BZ88B	Retinal Tomography, 18 years and under
BZ89A	Digital Retinal Photography, 19 years and over
BZ89B	Digital Retinal Photography, 18 years and under

Appointments – TFC 130

WF01A	Follow Up Attendance – Single Professional
WF01B	First Attendance – Single Professional

- b) There are no agreed local tariffs.

In accordance 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. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer