



# North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference      North East & North Cumbria  
ICB FOI 374

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By Email

Dear

**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 15 May 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

**Your Request**

We request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. We are requesting a response to the attached survey questions: British Liver Trust Primary Care Pathway Survey ICB FINAL.

**Prescribed information**

The information requested is in the attached survey questionnaire, which we request is completed in full.

The British Liver Trust is the UK's leading liver health charity, working to improve liver health for all and supporting those affected by liver disease and liver cancer.

One of our key campaigns is to advocate for the adoption of full patient care pathways for the early diagnosis of liver disease – [make early diagnosis of liver disease routine](#). To do this, we need to understand the extent of Integrated Care Board guidance and commissioning of effective pathways for the early detection of liver disease in primary care.

In August 2020, we conducted our first survey of Clinical Commissioning Groups to capture the state of liver disease pathways across the UK and [published our finding](#). The finding showed only 26% of areas had a commissioned pathway in place, for the detection and management of liver disease in primary care. Since NHS commissioning in England has changed from Clinical Commissioning Groups to Integrated Care Boards and a reasonable period has elapsed, we are now surveying all Integrated Care Boards to understand the current state of liver disease pathways and to examine whether progress has been made across the UK over the last 3 years.

### Guidance for completing the survey

- Please could you provide this information for North East and North Cumbria ICB.
- Please respond to the survey questions on the attached document.
- We invite you to include any additional information/context to your responses to the survey questions in the space below the tick box options or in the final comments section, if needed.
- We look forward to receiving this new information not later than 20 working day following the date of receipt, which is 15 May 2023.

On receipt of the completed survey, we will provide Integrated Care Boards with a local profile of liver disease statistics specific for your area, the headline results of the research, plus a toolkit, which includes examples of best practice.

### **Our Response**

*As the largest ICB in the country, the NENC ICB have a variety of commissioned pathways therefore have provided examples to support this response.*

*For the same reason, the NENC ICB is unable to complete the survey.*

*Further information is provided below:*

*Enc 1 – NAFLD pathway document – example only for North area*

*Enc 2 – NENC Abnormal LFT pathway – example only for South area*

### **Durham**

- *PCN specific have a federation-backed local incentive scheme to ensure FIB4 scores every 3 years in patients with NAFLD, and to improve coding from ultrasound findings "QASI" (Quality and safety initiative)*
- *Local hepatology consultants are drafting a direct access Fibroscan referral form for patients with FIB4 above thresholds or male patients drinking >50 units alcohol per week, >35 for females.*
- *The Health squads from 'Wellbeing for Life' and County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust are delivering the core20+5 outreach screening and will also have a 'fibroscanner' (as well as blood borne virus testing facility) to screen for liver disease in people unreached or struggling to access healthcare.*

## **South Tyneside**

- *Use Health pathway model, their website contains guidelines for managing abnormal LFTs and fatty liver and risk factors. These include referral criteria to the local trust. There are no specific guidelines related to case finding other than risk factors.*

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. 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*Pamela Coxon*

**Pamela Coxon**  
**Information Governance Officer**