

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–195

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

29 August 2025

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 on 14 August 2025 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, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

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

Your Request

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in relation to the NICE guideline NG157: *“Joint Replacement (Primary): Hip, Knee and Shoulder”* (February 2020). The guidance provides evidence-based recommendations for best practice in the delivery of joint replacement surgery and pre/post-operative care.

1. Referral Pathways and Thresholds for Surgery
Related to Recommendations 1.1.1–1.1.5

- a. Does NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB use any formal criteria or thresholds (e.g. Oxford Hip Score) to determine eligibility for referral to secondary care or surgery for primary hip replacement?
- b. Do you commission or support any "triage" services (e.g. MSK hubs, community physiotherapy) that must be accessed prior to secondary care referral?

2. Shared Decision-Making and Information Provision
Related to Recommendations 1.2.1–1.2.3

- a. Are patients referred for hip replacement routinely provided with NICE-compliant decision aids or written information on surgical options, benefits, risks and recovery timelines?

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- b. Is shared decision-making formally monitored or audited by NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB or provider trusts?
3. Choice of Implant and Surgical Technique
Related to Recommendations 1.3.1–1.3.7
 - a. Does NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB have any policies or contracts in place that influence which hip implants (e.g. cemented vs. uncemented) can be used by providers?
 - b. Do you require providers to follow NICE's recommendation to use implants that meet ODEP 10A* or equivalent standards for survivorship and performance?
 - c. Is data on implant selection and revision rates tracked across your providers?
4. Enhanced Recovery and Length of Stay
Related to Recommendations 1.4.1–1.4.4
 - a. Are providers within NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB expected to follow an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) pathway for hip replacements?
 - b. What is the average and maximum length of stay for elective primary hip replacement surgeries in your area?
5. Post-Operative Rehabilitation and Follow-Up
Related to Recommendations 1.5.1–1.5.3
 - a. Are all patients offered post-operative rehabilitation (e.g. physiotherapy) following hip replacement?
 - b. Is rehabilitation routinely delivered in hospital, the community, or both?
 - c. What follow-up protocols are in place (e.g. physiotherapy review, outpatient check-ups), and at what intervals post-surgery?
6. Data Collection and Outcomes
 - a. Does NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB collect or review data on patient outcomes following hip replacement (e.g. PROMs, complication rates, revision surgery rates)?
 - b. If so, please provide the most recent audit or summary outcome data available for hip replacement across providers in your area.

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.

1. In terms of referral pathways and thresholds for surgery:

1a: Criteria:

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those foundation trusts to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

1b: Contract Management:

County Durham place: County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust provides community Integrated MSK Service for County Durham only.

Newcastle Gateshead place – yes, there is a triage service commissioned.

North Cumbria place – there is no triage service in North Cumbria, patients can be referred directly into secondary care.

North Tyneside place: Northumbria FT – North Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (NTIMS).

Northumberland place: Northumbria FT – Joint Musculoskeletal and Pain Service (JMAPS)

South Tyneside place: Cora Health Ltd (previously Connect Health), see note below.

Sunderland place: SIMS service.

Tees Valley place: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Please note, Cora Health Ltd are commissioned by NENC ICB and provide the following services and triage model.

South Tyneside MSK Service

- Triage Model: Triage is mandatory and conducted via the MSK Care Coordination Hub and the Community MSK Assessment, Triage & Treatment Service (MSKATS)
- Referral Pathway: All referrals (self-referral, GP, FCP, secondary care) are triaged within 2 working days before any onward referral to secondary care

Darlington MSK Service

- Triage Model: The service operates as a Single Point of Access (SPA) with triage by a multidisciplinary team (MDT)
- Referral Pathway: All referrals are triaged before secondary care referral; red flag cases are redirected the same day

Durham Chronic Pain Management Service

- Triage Model: The service provides a Single Point of Access and includes clinical triage of all referrals
- Referral Pathway: Triage is required before any onward referral to Tier 3 specialist pain services (secondary care)

2. Please refer to the response to question 1a.

3. Please refer to the response to question 1a.

4. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
6. Please refer to the response to question 1a.

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 ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or 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 faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

**Information Governance Support Officer
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**