

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–202

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

30 July 2026

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 23 July 2026 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 make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to your ICB's asthma/COPD pathways and associated formularies:

1. The current review, renewal, or scheduled update date for any spacer device formulary recommendations used within your asthma/COPD pathway.
2. The current review, renewal, or scheduled update date for any peak flow meter formulary recommendations used within your asthma/COPD pathway.
3. Where applicable, the name of the committee, group, or governance body responsible for reviewing and approving these formulary decisions.
4. The anticipated timeline for the next review of the spacer and peak flow sections of the formulary, if known.
5. I would be grateful if you could provide the appropriate contact details for the individual(s) or team(s) responsible for receiving evidence and product information submissions relating to formulary reviews, including:
 - Name
 - Job title
 - Email address
 - Organisation/committee name

If any of the requested information is publicly available, please provide the relevant webpage link(s).

Our Response

1. The spacer formulary was reviewed recently. The updated formulary was discussed at Formulary Working Group (FWG) in May 2026. It has through public consultation, following which it was considered at Northern Treatment Advisory Group (NTAG) in July. The recommendation from NTAG will be going to the next Clinical Effectiveness Group (CEG) meeting in August.
2. There has been no recent review or submission in relation to peak flow meters.
3. Full details of governance groups and committees responsible for reviewing and approving formulary decisions are available at: [NTAG – Northern Treatment Advisory Group](#). Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.

FWG review submissions relating to the formulary and received a submission to consider spacer devices on the formulary. The submission was recommended for approval, and is currently within the governance process with a final decision and if necessary an update to the online formulary following decisions. Submissions to be considered for the NENC ICS formulary is submitted to nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net. Please refer to the formulary page – [North East and North Cumbria Formulary](#) – for further information. Once the recent review has had final approval this formulary page will be updated.

4. On this occasion it is not possible 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 the timeline for reviews.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the ICB is aware that formulary review submissions should be submitted to the formulary working group via email at nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net.

5. Evidence and product information submissions should be submitted to nencicb-sun.mo@nhs.net. All submissions will be assessed by the Medicines Optimisation team and your request will be forwarded to the most appropriate individual or team. You will be asked to complete the following form (attached) to ensure we have all the required information to assess your request most appropriately.

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 Information 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**