

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-018

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

22 April 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 9 April 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 information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am requesting the following information in respect of continence (Leg Bags, Drainage/night bags, ISC catheters, Foley catheters, Incontinence sheaths). For each area:

1. The name(s) and direct contact email address(es) and direct telephone numbers of the person(s) who are responsible for the formulary
2. The date of the next review of your formulary.
3. Details of how you intend to review your formulary (include process, timelines).
4. Details if part of a local partnership arrangement for formulary review. Please provide the contact's name, email address and telephone number for the person with responsibility where a partnership arrangement is in place.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. Formulary responsibility lies with the Northern Treatment Advisory Group (NTAG), which provides advice on medicines and product choices across the North East and North Cumbria region. Please contact nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net.
2. Continence appliance formulary elements (where applicable) are reviewed periodically in response to regional pathway developments, patient safety considerations, and procurement activities.

At present, no specific date has been formally set for the next comprehensive review of continence appliances across the NENC ICB.

3. The review of continence product categories typically involves a structured and collaborative process, which may include:
 - Stakeholder engagement in primary and secondary care
 - Consideration of national guidance and safety alerts
 - Evaluation of cost-effectiveness, patient acceptability, and supply sustainability
 - Review of current usage data and prescribing trends
 - Alignment with regional procurement exercises and pathways work

Specific timelines and detailed processes are yet to be determined.

4. NENC ICB operates a regionally collaborative approach to formulary development and review. The work is coordinated through NTAG, with input from stakeholders across the ICB and wider regional forums.

The continence formulary is informed by this collaborative model, including links with regional prescribing committees, procurement leads, and clinical networks where relevant. Please contact the following for more information:

Local partnership enquiries (NTAG): nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net

Medicines Optimisation enquiries (NENC ICB): nencicb-sun.mo@nhs.net

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**