

Our Reference     North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24–480

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By Email

13 March 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 6 March 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, 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**

This FOI request seeks to determine the clinical pathways associated with *Helicobacter pylori* testing within primary care in your ICS, as well as the types, numbers and costs of *Helicobacter pylori* tests requested by primary care providers within your ICS.

1. Clinical guidance and care pathways

Which guidance and clinical care pathways are used in your ICS with respect to the primary care management and diagnosis of dyspepsia and related *Helicobacter pylori* testing?

2. Test Types and Volumes

With respect to *Helicobacter pylori* tests requested by primary care within your ICS, what types of tests (e.g., stool antigen test, urea breath test, serology), and how many of each type of test were requested during the most recent 12-month period, or other defined accounting period for which data is available?

3. Cost and Payment Structure for Testing

- a. How are Helicobacter pylori tests paid for across your ICS? For example, are tests charged on a per-test basis, covered under a global contract for testing services, or a combination of both?
- b. If charged per test, please specify the price per test for each test type (e.g., stool antigen test, urea breath test, serology).

**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. Prescribers are sign posted to the national treatment guideline using the link:  
<https://bnf.nice.org.uk/treatment-summaries/helicobacter-pylori-infection/>
2. 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 any of the information requested.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.

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](http://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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**