

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–465

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By Email

25 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 26 February 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

I am writing to request information under the FOI Act 2000.

I use the word 'trans' here to encompass all people who identify with a gender other than that assigned at birth or who may be questioning their gender. My questions (except 6 and 7) relate to the period from April 2024–present.

1. Has advice been issued to local GP surgeries about registering and/or treating trans-identifying patients? If so, please provide the relevant documents.
2. Has the local formulary been edited in relation to the prescription of any of the following. Please describe any changes in relation to which providers are allowed to prescribe it to which patient populations, including age, assigned sex, and gender identity. (E.g. Previously GPs were allowed to initiate prescriptions of [medication] to [gender identity/ assigned sex] beginning at [age] but now the prescription must be initiated by a specialist, and cannot begin before [age].)
 - a. testosterone (all formulations)
 - b. estrogen (all formulations)
 - c. GnRH agonists

- d. progesterone (all formulations)
 - e. Spironolactone
 - f. Bicalutamide
 - g. Cyproterone
3. Have any new local services for trans adults been commissioned? If so, please provide details of the treatments offered and specify the age group served.
 4. Have any new local services for trans children been commissioned? If so, please provide details of the treatments offered and specify the age group served.
 5. Have any local services for trans children or trans adults been discontinued?
 6. How many complaints have you received about access to transition-related care. Please provide data for the past three year.

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. The ICB has not issued guidance to local GP surgeries.
2. The Gender Dysphoria section (Chapter 6.4.4) of the NENC formulary has not been updated since the single NENC formulary was created in July 2023. It reflects the formulary status/formulary position in the three previous NENC formularies. It may require review/updating following the conclusion of NENC ICB work on guidelines including prescribing of drugs for gender dysphoria.

In addition, please note that Testosterone Undecanoate 1g/4ml (Nebido) formulary entry has had the brand Nebido removed due to generic products now available. No changes have been made to the local formulary in relation to which providers are allowed to prescribe any of the listed medicines within the request. There is a link on the local formulary to the General Guidelines for the use of hormone treatment in gender dysphoria - Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service which is guidance held on the Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW) website.'

The formulary section on [gender dysphoria](#) is publicly available with a link to the CNTW guideline, and the [CEG decision summaries](#) are also publicly available.

3. There have been no new services commissioned.
4. Please refer to the response to question 3.
5. Please refer to the response to question 3.
6. There have been 5 cases received about access to transition-related care. The cases referenced all related to an aspect/s of the complainant/patient's transition-related care.

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

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer