

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-002

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By Email

11 April 2024

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 28 March 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

Your Request

I would like to ask the following questions under the Freedom of Information Act. My questions are:

- Does your ICB currently offer patients the weight loss medication Wegovy for adults in line with NICE TA875?
- Has there been any prescriptions of Wegovy to date from Tier 3 weight management services within your ICB since the release of NICE TA875?
- Has the ICB previously offered weight loss medication Saxenda for adults in line with NICE TA664 prior to national supply issues?
- Has there previously been any prescriptions of Saxenda to date from Tier 3 weight management services within your ICB since the release of NICE TA664?
- If the medicines are provided within the ICB, are they available to prescribe within all Tier 3 services in the ICB?
- If the medicines are provided within the ICB, are there any changes to prescribing criteria compared with NICE TA664 and NICE TA875?

It is possible that the volume of material requested is such that it would take it above the cost/staff time limit. If this is the case, then please just focus on the correspondence regarding Wegovy and ignore the Saxenda requests.

With this in mind, I would also respectfully remind you that Section 16 of the FOIA places a duty on public authorities to provide assistance and advice to those making FOI requests so if there are any issues concerning this request – including the research time needed by you to respond – I would expect you to contact me to discuss a way forward.

Our Response

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

- NENC ICB currently offers patients the weight loss medication Wegovy for adults in line with NICE TA875.
- Yes, there have been prescriptions of Wegovy to date from Tier 3 weight management services within NENC ICB since the release of NICE TA875.
- Yes, NENC ICB previously offered weight loss medication Saxenda for adults in line with NICE TA664 prior to national supply issues.
- Yes, there have previously been prescriptions of Saxenda to date from Tier 3 weight management services within NENC ICB since the release of NICE TA664.
- Work is underway to ensure consistent services are provided across all commissioned tier 3 services in the ICB in line with a new service specification. This will ensure prescribing will be delivered by all tier 3 services.
- RDTIC for NENC classified both drugs as red thus only available to patients in specialist weight management services (Tier 3 and 4), which is in line with the NICE TA for Saxenda and Wegovy.

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