

Our Reference

HM\ North East & North  
Cumbria ICB\ FOI ICB364

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Your Reference

02 June 2023

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**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)**

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 04 May 2023 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).

**Details of Request and Response**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, can you provide the following information:

Clarification given: specific procedures, we mean which medical test, diagnostic, intervention, or any other procedure.

*1. What criteria did North East and North Cumbria ICS use to decide on the specific procedures, methodologies and equipment that would be used to complete the diagnostic tests delivered by the community diagnostic centres commissioned by the Integrated Care System?*

Response

The NENC ICS reviewed diagnostic capacity, demand, waiting lists and public health data to determine our strategic approach to CDC development. The CDCs in the North East and North Cumbria are delivered by our provider trusts. The procedures and methodologies for completing diagnostic tests are defined by local Standard Operating Procedures and protocols of the trust to ensure consistency of approach as staff rotate through the CDC and acute sites. Equipment was selected to support consistency across acute sites and CDCs to minimise risk and maximise efficiency.

*2. What public and patient consultation did North East and North Cumbria ICS carry out surrounding the specific procedures, methodologies and equipment that would be used to complete the diagnostic tests delivered by the community diagnostic centres commissioned by the Integrated Care System?*

Response

Patient and public consultation was not required in relation to procedures, methodologies and equipment. The selection of these is based on clinical requirements and the standards defined by Royal colleges etc.

*3. What discussions has North East and North Cumbria ICS had the on need to adjust the way diagnostic tests are delivered by the community diagnostic centres commissioned by the ICS, to make their delivery of tests and checks more efficient?*

Response

The teams are continually reviewing patient pathways and booking procedures as the new sites are being developed.

*4. Which specific procedures are conducted by Healthcare Professionals within each diagnostic test available in the Community Diagnostic Centres commissioned by North East and North Cumbria ICS; and b) can the ICS provide a list of any applicable NICE Guidance followed within the diagnostic tests carried out in Community Diagnostic Centres commissioned by North East and North Cumbria ICS?*

Response

CT, MRI and Plain film – radiographers

Ultrasound – sonographers

Echo – Echocardiographers

Endoscopy – Gastroenterologists, surgeons, clinical endoscopists

Full Lung function tests – respiratory physiologists

NICE guidance does not define how diagnostic tests are carried out but would suggest the diagnostic test required when investigating symptoms. As the CDCs develop and patient pathways change, the appropriate NICE guidance will be considered.

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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.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

*Hilary Murphy*

**Hilary Murphy**  
**Information Governance Officer**