

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–003

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

14 April 2026

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 1 April 2026 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding the use of injectable pharmacological treatments for overweight and obesity (e.g. GLP-1 receptor agonists or dual GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists).

Since the publication of NICE TA 1026 on 23 December 2024, up to 01 April 2026:

1. Are injectable pharmacological treatments for overweight and obesity currently being initiated for patients as part of routine services commissioned or delivered by your organisation? If so, please identify which medication(s) are currently used as first-line injectable pharmacological therapy for overweight and obesity within commissioned services.
2. What are the eligibility criteria for patients to access injectable pharmacological treatments for overweight and obesity within your organisation? Where these criteria are already published online, please provide the relevant link and confirm whether the published criteria are currently being applied in practice.
3. Please confirm whether the model of care through which these treatments are (or will be) delivered:
 - Directly from general practice
 - Primary care-led weight management service (e.g. GP or pharmacist-led weight management service, community weight management hub, etc.)

- Tier 3 specialist weight management services
 - Other (please specify).
4. Please confirm whether the relevant pathway within your organisation is currently:
 - operational and accepting referrals
 - operational but limited (e.g. pilot sites)
 - approved but not yet implemented
 - currently under development.
 5. Please provide copies of any key or current clinical pathways, service specifications, prescribing guidance, or referral criteria relating to the use of injectable pharmacological treatments for overweight and obesity, if held.

If any of the requested information is already publicly available, please provide links where possible. I would prefer to receive the requested information electronically, by email, if possible.

Our Response

1. Yes, NENC ICB had a Tirzepatide Prescribing Local Enhanced Service for GP practices in line with cohort 1 (as per NHS England Funding Variation for tirzepatide) running from 23 June 2025 to 31 March 2026. The service specification is attached.

In addition, in February 2025, Specialist Weight Management Services were commissioned to prescribe weight management drugs liraglutide, semaglutide and tirzepatide in line with relevant NICE guidance. The initiation of tirzepatide in primary care is now part of the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) 2026/27.

2. Eligibility criteria for tirzepatide initiation in primary care were in line with the NHS England Funding Variation.

Secondary care Specialist Weight Management Services treated highly complex patients and treatment decisions were at the specialists' discretion.

3. Model of care delivery:
 - *Directly from general practice*: NENC ICB Tirzepatide Prescribing Local Enhanced Service was up until 31/03/2026 so no longer operational. GP prescribing of tirzepatide is now part of QOF.
 - *Primary care-led weight management service*: None commissioned.
 - *Tier 3 specialist weight management services*: Please refer to the document: [tier-3-weight-management-services-commissioning-statement-2026.pdf](#) available on the ICB's website. This service is operational and accepting referrals.
 - *Other*: Please refer to the models of care delivery above.
4. Please refer to the response to question 3.
5. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds the documents you have requested. However, these are publicly available via the links below:

[Healthy weight and obesity | North East & North Cumbria NHS](#)
[tier-3-weight-management-services-commissioning-statement-2026.pdf](#)
[Healthy Weight Treating Obesity Patient Prioritisation Guideline 2025](#)

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

Prescribing should be in line with relevant NICE technology appraisals and NHS England Funding Variation.

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 Information 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**