

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24–233

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By Email

9 September 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 6 September 2024 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 you to ask for information about the care you offer. I am specifically in need of information in the area of Neurology/Migraines. My questions are listed below.

**Treatments available**

1. Can eligible patients currently access Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) medication through your Trust/Health Board?
2. Which of the following CGRP treatments are available to patients through your Trust/Health Board?
  - Ajovy (Fremanezumab)
  - Emgality (Galcanezumab)
  - Erenumab (Aimovig)
  - Eptinezumab (Vyepiti)
  - Atogepant
3. Are there limitations on how many CGRP treatments patients can access in your Trust/Health Board? (please describe)
4. Does your Trust/Health Board offer another CGRP option if the first CGRP treatment fails?

5. If 2 fail are further CGRP treatments accessible? Does your trust offer patients the opportunity to work through 3 CGRP treatments?
6. Are there any limits/restrictions or plans to restrict to a specific number of treatments that can be tried in your Trust/Health Board?

### Referrals

7. Do your Trust support outside area referrals?
8. Are there any specific requirements in your Trust around accessing CGRP treatment as an outside referral or an inside referral.
9. How many people are currently accessing CGRP medication through your Trust/Health Board?

### Clinic/Support

10. Do you have a headache clinic in your Trust? (If so please detail. If not, please detail the clinic you refer out to.
11. Which of the following support is available? (headache specialists, headache nurses, neurologists, other – please state).
12. Is the administration of CGRP treatments monitored by a headache specialist?

### Waiting Lists for CGRP treatments

13. What is the average waiting time from GP referral to first appointment at the specialist headache clinics in your Trust/Health Board as an outside referral and also within it?
14. What is the current waiting time to access a prescribing specialist in the trust and as an outside referral?

### Our Response

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. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

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 faithfully

*S Davies*

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