



# North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North  
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB553

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24 October 2023

## **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 27 September 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).

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

### **Your Request**

I am submitting this request, on behalf of myself, under the Freedom of Information Act and the Code of Practice on Openness in the NHS. Please confirm the ICB holds the following data, and where it is held please provide the data as requested.

I would like to receive this information by email in the templated excel spreadsheet included. I am interested in multiple therapeutic areas so please treat each request separately.

1. Please provide the ICB-wide commissioning policy for gynaecology services
2. Please provide the name of all providers of gynaecology services in the ICB

### **For each provider**

3. Please identify whether they are an NHS or independent sector provider
4. Please share the service specification in place with the provider
5. Please identify whether they offer:
  - a) acute (admitted) services (Y/N)
  - b) elective (admitted) services (Y/N)
  - c) elective (outpatient) services (Y/N)
6. Please list all outpatient pathways delivered
7. Please list all outpatient pathways that are provided fully remotely

8. Please list all outpatient pathways that are provided partially remotely
9. Please identify they offer a dedicated:
  - a) Menopause clinic (Y/N)
  - b) Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) clinic (Y/N)
  - c) Endometriosis clinic (Y/N)
  - d) Fertility services clinic (Y/N)
10. Please provide the total number of referrals received in:
  - a) NHS Financial Year 2022/23
  - b) NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD
  - c) Please indicate the cut-off date used for NHS Financial Year 2023/24 for Q10
11. Please provide the total number of patients who started treatment in:
  - a) NHS Financial Year 2022/23
  - b) NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD
  - c) Please indicate the cut-off date used for NHS Financial Year 2023/24 for Q11
12. Please provide the total financial sum received from the ICB in:
  - a) NHS Financial Year 2022/23
  - b) NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD
  - c) Please indicate the cut-off date used for NHS Financial Year 2023/24 for Q12

## Our Response

### County Durham place

1. Please provide the ICB-wide commissioning policy for gynaecology services

<b>Hysterectomy for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding</b>	<b>Category:</b> <i>(IFR / Prior Approval / Monitored Approval)</i>	<b>Prior Approval</b>
	<b>Local or National EBI (Evidence Based Interventions) Policy:</b>	<b>National EBI</b>
<b>Background:</b>		
Hysterectomy should not be used as a first line treatment solely for heavy menstrual bleeding.		
<b>Policy:</b>		
<b>For women diagnosed with heavy menstrual bleeding (menorrhagia), with or without fibroids, hysterectomy will not be commissioned unless ALL of the following criteria are met:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations for the medical treatment of heavy menstrual bleeding (and/or symptomatic large or multiple fibroids) set out in NICE Clinical Guideline NG88 for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding (<a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88</a>) have failed, or are contraindicated, or has been declined by the woman. This includes the use of a progestogen-releasing intrauterine device (levonorgestrel releasing systems - LNG-IUS).</li> </ul>		
<b>AND</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uterine endometrial ablation methods have failed or are not clinically appropriate or has been declined by the woman.</li> </ul>		
<b>AND</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The woman has been fully informed of the implications of surgery and does not wish to retain her uterus and fertility.</li> </ul>		
<b>AND</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is evidence that the risks and benefits of treatment options have been clearly discussed with the patient / carer and are documented in the patient notes. This may include the NHS Rightcare Shared Decision Making tool</li> </ul>		

<b>Reversal of Female Sterilisation</b>	<b>Category:</b> <i>(IFR / Prior Approval / Monitored Approval)</i>	<b>IFR</b>
	<b>Local or National EBI (Evidence Based Interventions) Policy:</b>	<b>Local</b>
<b>Background:</b>  Reversal of sterilisation is a surgical procedure that involves the reconstruction of the fallopian tubes.		
<b>Policy:</b>  Reversal of sterilisation will NOT be routinely funded.		

<b>Dilatation and Curettage (D&amp;C) for treatment of Heavy Menstrual Bleeding</b>	<b>Category:</b> <i>(IFR / Prior Approval / Monitored Approval)</i>	<b>IFR</b>
	<b>Local or National EBI (Evidence Based Interventions) Policy:</b>	<b>National EBI</b>
<b>Background:</b>  Dilatation and curettage (D&C) is a procedure performed under general anaesthetic in which the opening of the womb (cervix) is widened (dilation) and the lining of the womb is biopsied or removed by scraping (curettage).  NICE Guidelines (NG88) recommends D&C is not offered as a diagnostic or treatment option for heavy menstrual bleeding due to a lack of evidence. Ultrasound scans and camera tests can be used to investigate heavy periods.		
<b>Policy:</b>  Dilatation and curettage (D&C) is NOT routinely commissioned as a therapeutic or diagnostic intervention for heavy menstrual bleeding or any other uterine bleeding disorder.		

2. Providers of gynaecology services in the ICB Durham area are:

Auckland Medical Group Barnard Castle Bevan Medical Group Bewick Crescent Surgery Bishopgate Medical Centre Bishops Close Medical Practice. Blackhall and Peterlee Practice Bridge End Surgery Cedars Medical Group Cestria Health Centre Chevely Park Medical Centre Claypath and University Medical Group Consett Medical Centre Coxhoe Medical Practice Dr Julie Oliver East Durham Medical Group Ferryhill and Chilton Medical Practice Gainford Surgery Great Lumley Surgery Horden Group Practice Jubilee Medical Group	Lanchester Medical Group Leadgate Surgery Marlborough Surgery Middle Chare Medical Group Murton Medical Group Oakfields health Group Old Forge surgery Pelton and Fellrose Surgery Skerne Medical Group St Andrews Medical Practice Stanley Medical Group Station View Medical Centre Tanfield View Medical Centre. The Haven Surgery The Medical Group The Weardale Practice West Rainton Surgery William Brown Medical Centre Willington Medical Group Woodview Medical Practice
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3. All those stated in question 2 are NHS providers

NENC ICB does not hold the information requested for question 4 to 12. Please redirect your query to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland and South Tyneside places

The response below are NENC ICB's Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland and South Tyneside places, unless otherwise stated.

1. There is no ICB-wide commissioning policy for gynaecology services in place
2. Providers of gynaecology services are:
  - Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
  - Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
  - South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
3. All trusts noted in question 2 are NHS providers
4. The service specification for gynaecology services forms part of the broader acute contracts with the provider and cannot be split out.

NENC ICB does not hold the information requested for question 5 to 12. Please redirect your query to the acute hospitals noted in the response to question 2.

North Cumbria place

1. There is no ICB-wide commissioning policy for gynaecology services in place
2. North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT (NCIC) provides gynaecology services in the ICB in North Cumbria place.
3. NCIC is an NHS provider
4. There is no service specification in place but the provider is required to comply with all regulatory requirements and service standards as per service conditions 2 and 3 of the NHS Standard Contract.
5. The services offered are:
  - a) acute (admitted) services
  - b) elective (admitted) services
  - c) elective (outpatient) services

NENC ICB in North Cumbria place does not hold the information requested for questions 6 to 12. Please redirect your request to the acute trust provider, NCIC NHS FT.

Sunderland place

1. There is no ICB-wide commissioning policy for gynaecology services.
2. The Sunderland place provider is South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.
3. South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust is an NHS provider.
4. There is no service specification in place but the provider is required to comply with all regulatory requirements and service standards as per service conditions 2 and 3 of the NHS Standard Contract.
5. The services offered are:
  - a) acute (admitted) services
  - b) elective (admitted) services
  - c) elective (outpatient) services

NENC ICB in Sunderland place does not hold the information requested for questions 6 to 12. Please redirect your request to the acute trust provider, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Tees Valley place

1. Commissioning of services is in line with NICE Guidance and the Value Based Commissioning Policy. The Value Based Commissioning Policy can be found on the [NENC ICB website](#).
2. Providers of gynaecology services in the Tees Valley ICB area are:
  - North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) – **NHS** Provider
  - South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) – **NHS** Provider
  - Tees Valley Treatment Centre – **IS** Provider
3. The detail of whether they are IS or NHS provider is detailed in the question 2 response.
4. Service specifications are shown below:



5. Services offered:
  - a) acute (admitted) services – yes for both Trusts, no for Tees Valley Treatment Centre
  - b) elective (admitted) services – yes for all Providers.
  - c) elective (outpatient) services – yes for all Providers.
6. Outpatient pathways delivered:
  - NTHFT – provider to respond
  - STHFT – provider to respond
  - Tees Valley Treatment Centre – see service specification
7. Foundation Trusts and Tees Valley Treatment Centre to advise on outpatient pathways that are provided fully remotely.
8. Foundation Trusts and Tees Valley Treatment Centre to advise on outpatient pathways that are provided partly remotely.
9. We are aware that Providers treat the below, we cannot confirm that they hold dedicated clinics:
  - a) Menopause clinic - providers to advise
  - b) Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) clinic - providers to advise
  - c) Endometriosis clinic - providers to advise
  - d) Fertility services clinic - FT's - yes, Tees Valley Treatment Centre – no

NENC ICB in Tees Valley place does not hold the information requested for questions 10, 11 and 12. Please redirect your request to the providers, NHTFT, STHFT and Tees Valley Treatment Centre.

Please find a list of acute trusts in North East and North Cumbria with contact details for their Freedom of Information teams:

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham & 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 & 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 line 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 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.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 sincerely

*S Davies*

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