



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB659

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

22/12/2023

Applicant
By Email

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 06/12/23 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

1. Do you have Teledermatology services in all your area (please list them)?

Dermatology services in the North East and Cumbria are commissioned from:

- *Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NuTH)*
- *County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)*
- *North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust (NCIC)*
- *South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STFT)*
- *Ramsay Tees Valley Hospital*

The majority of tele-dermatology services are not commissioned as standalone services they are an adjunct to the consultant-led services delivered by the above providers. With the exception of referral pathways in Hartlepool, Stockton on Tees,

Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland; tele-dermatology pathways are solely in place to support urgent 2 week wait pathways for suspected cancer.

There are 7 standalone tele-dermatology services commissioned in County Durham which form part of the pathway for Durham patients. The services are delivered by Cestria Health Centre and 6 other GPs with a special interest in dermatology (GPwSIs). The services review images taken and referred to them by County Durham GPs and determine whether a referral to outpatients or treatment recommendations are required.

- 2. What is the percentage of patients on the 2 Week Wait (2WW) suspected skin cancer pathway are rejected and referred back to primary care with “advice and guidance”? (For each service) (for 2022-2023; or if not available, for 2021- 2022)**

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. The provider organisations might hold this information. You can contact them on:

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

- 3. Who is currently delivering teledermatology (NHS providers – community, hospitals, GPs; or private providers, others)? (For each service)**

Please see response table under Q8.

- 4. Where are these delivered (primary care facilities, community hospitals, community diagnostic centres)? (For each service) GPs take images in practice and forward on to secondary care to support their referrals to dermatology outpatients. The exception to this is in County Durham where GPs forward their images to the Cestria Health Centre or one of the GPwSIs who review the images to determine if an onward referral to secondary care is required or to determine any treatment recommendations.**

- 5. What type of dermoscopic equipment(s) are used to take high quality images? (For each service)**

Please see response table under Q8.

6. What teledermatology image sharing platform(s) are used? (For each service)

Please see response table under Q8.

7. Are these services commissioned per patients or per lesion-mole or as contracted service?

Please see response table under Q8.

8. What is the duration of these service contract(s) and when will they end?

Provider	ICB Places covered by service	5. What type of dermoscopic equipment(s) are used to take high quality images? (For each service)	6. What teledermatology image sharing platform(s) are used?	7. Are these services commissioned per patients or per lesion-mole or as contracted service?	8. What is the duration of these service contract(s) and when will they end?	
NuTH	Newcastle, Gateshead, Northumberland, North Tyneside	DermLite DL1 Dermatoscope	AccuRx	Tele-dermatology is not commissioned as standalone services. Dermatology services are commissioned as part of the aforementioned providers' overall contracts. Tele-dermatology is in place to improve the referral process.	01/04/23 – 31/03/24	
CDDFT	Sunderland, South Tyneside, Durham, Darlington		Consultant Connect		01/04/23 – 31/03/24	
STFT & Ramsay	Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland	DermLite DL4	AccuRx		01/04/23 – 31/03/24	
NCIC	North Cumbria	Heine Delta One Dermatoscopes	AccuRx		01/04/23 – 31/03/24	
Cestria Health Centre	County Durham	Heine DELTAone K-210.28.305 Standard Edition	secure nhs.mail inbox		Payment per referral	01/04/23 – 31/03/24
& 6 GPWSI						

9. Please provide any links for on-going teledermatology procurement exercises

Nil. No ongoing procurement exercises.

10. Is the budget for teledermatology service(s) held by the ICB or devolved to the community (please specify)?

The budget for commissioning dermatology services, inclusive of related tele-dermatology pathways, is held by the ICB.

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

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

Ehren Smith

Ehren Smith
Information Governance Officer