

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–174

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

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

By Email

12 August 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 19 July 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

Thank you in advance for responding to this Freedom of Information request. On behalf of the Obesity Management Collaborative (www.omc-uk.org), I would be grateful if you could supply answers to the following questions:

1. Does your ICB currently fund prescription of semaglutide 2.4mg (Wegovy) within specialist weight management services?
2. Please name the specialist weight management services you commission.
3. If you do not commission a specialist weight management service, please name any specialist weight management services that operate within your ICB geography that you are aware of and are not commissioned?
4. Are there any additional criteria used to restrict eligibility in your ICB for semaglutide 2.4 mg (Wegovy) outside of the recommendations in NICE TA875?
5. Since 8th March 2023, how many letters of complaint has your ICB received from patients who feel they should receive semaglutide 2.4 mg (Wegovy)?
6. If you do not currently fund semaglutide 2.4 mg (Wegovy), is the ICB working to implement this?

7. If you are looking to implement semaglutide 2.4 mg (Wegovy), is it projected to be funded by your ICB before April 2025?

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information you have requested.

1. Specialist weight management services are funded at tier 3 level across the ICB and within these services prescribing of semaglutide is an option and a number of patients do receive it, however it is not separately and explicitly funded.'
2. NENC ICB commissions Tier 3 Specialist weight management services from these NHS acute hospital foundation trusts (FTs):
 - County Durham and Darlington NHS FT
 - Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT
 - North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT
 - Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT
 - South Tees Hospitals NHS FT
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. The only criteria on eligibility used are those set out in NICE guidance. No additional criteria are in place.
5. The ICB is working through a considerable backlog of contacts to the Complaints Team. Of the contacts processed so far, none of these have been about access to semaglutide.
6. Please refer to the response to question 1.
7. Please refer to the response to question 1.

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

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

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer