



Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/11/602

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

24th November 2023

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-11-602

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 13th November 2023. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

An anonymised copy of this response will be made publicly available on the ICB website.

Please see our responses in blue below:

Under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 please could you respond to the questions below:-

Postural Tachycardia Syndrome PoTS is a neurovascular condition characterised as an abnormal response by the autonomic nervous system to upright posture. The condition causes affected patients of all ages to experience a range of symptoms requiring extensive clinical investigations involving neurology and cardiology specialties to inform a positive diagnosis.

- 1. What is your estimate of the incidence of PoTS in the population of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent and how many patients have been diagnosed with the condition over the last 5 years?**

The ICB has not undertaken a specific population study on Postural Tachycardia Syndrome (PoTs), so is unable to provide this information.

- 2. Is there evidence of a growth in PoTS diagnoses since May 2020 due to patients suffering with long-Covid?**

The specific report coding for PoTs was introduced on 1st October 2022, our main providers are in the process of updating their code reporting structures. The ICB does not hold this information. For specific information on impact of covid and PoTs would need to be requested from the Acute Trusts.

Our main providers are:

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust
<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/contact-us/>

Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
<https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/>

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust
<https://www.uhdb.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-foi/>

University Hospital of Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
<https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information.htm>

3. To which specialty within secondary care are PoTS patients referred for investigation, diagnosis and longer-term management?

Primary Care refer patients via the ERS (Electronic Referral System) and our provider Trusts triage the referrals and therefore is no coding structure at the point of referral.

This information would need to be requested from the Acute Providers that support Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SSOT) patients as the ICB does not hold this information. Our provider details are per question two response.

4. Are there established ICB patient pathways in place for the referral, diagnosis and management of a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients with PoTS in your local population?

SSOT does not have specific pathways for PoTs.

5. Do a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients diagnosed with PoTS have access to a specialised PoTS clinic or service for treatment by dedicated clinicians with an interest/expertise in the condition? If so, please provide details of individual adult and paediatric services patients are referred to.

This information would need to be requested from the Acute Providers that support Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SSOT) patients as the ICB does not hold this information. Our provider details are per question two response.

6. How is activity coded for adult and paediatric patients with a diagnosis of PoTS?

The specific report coding for PoTs was introduced on 1st October 2023, our main providers are in the process of updating their coding reporting structures. Our local Trust coding will need to be requested from them. Our main providers are as per question two response.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance