

Ref: CCG January 2016 018

Corporate Services
NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group
The Department
Lewis's Building
Renshaw Street
Liverpool
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Email: foi@liverpoolccg.nhs.uk

1 February 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that we received on 20 January 2016, with regards to Pelvic Congestion Syndrome (PCS).

Request/Response

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide the following information for NHS Liverpool CCG;

- 1) In each of the last three calendar years how many women a year are diagnosed with Pelvic Congestion Syndrome (PCS)?

1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015 – 0

1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014 – 0

1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013 – 0

Note:

Within Primary Care, conditions are recorded using 'Read Codes'. In the case of PCS, this would fall under the read code of 'Pelvic Congestion Syndrome – K585'. The read code used to search for patients that had been referred is 'Gynaecological referral – 8H58'. Having checked data from our primary care system (EMIS Web) for the past three years, no patients have been recorded with either code in that time. This either suggests that no patients have been diagnosed with this condition, or that the condition had been recorded in some other way. If this is the case, there is unfortunately no way for Liverpool CCG to accurately estimate the number of patients diagnosed with PCS.

Within secondary care, patient diagnoses are available via the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) dataset. This shows diagnoses coded in line with ICD10 (International Classification of Diseases Version 10) classifications. In terms of Pelvic Congestion Syndrome, there is no standard diagnosis code for this condition. From our investigation, we have concluded that this condition is most commonly recorded under one of three ICD10 codes (I862 - Pelvic varices, N948 - Other specified conditions associated with female genital organs and menstrual cycle or R102 - Pelvic and perineal pain). However, a number of other conditions are also classified under these codes (for example, ten different conditions all code to diagnosis N948, one of which is Pelvic Congestion Syndrome, and it

is not possible to identify which conditions are which). From the information we have, therefore, we are not aware of any way to accurately identify these patients alone. In addition, we would be reluctant to use the total number of patients with diagnosis code I862, N948 or R102 as a proxy for Pelvic Congestion Syndrome patients, as the number of other potential conditions included would most likely give an answer which would be misleading.

In both cases, the requestor's best course of action would be to speak directly to the local specialist trust (Liverpool Women's Hospital), who could answer his question to a much greater degree of accuracy.

- 2) In each of the last three calendar years how many women have presented with pelvic pain at their GP?

1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015 – 5

1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014 – 4

1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013 – 2

Note:

As with question 1, the low numbers returned by the EMIS Web system would suggest that recording of this information is very limited. As a result, these figures should be treated with caution.

- 3) Of the total number of women who present with pelvic pain at their GP how many are offered an appointment with a gynaecologist?

1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015 – 5

1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014 – 2

1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013 – 0

Note:

As with question 1, the low numbers returned by the EMIS Web system would suggest that recording of this information is very limited. As a result, these figures should be treated with caution.

- 4) In each of the last three calendar years how many women have received a diagnostic test for PCS?

For tests conducted within primary care, please see the notes accompanying Question 1. Within secondary care, diagnostic tests are not recorded within SUS data and, in any case, it would not be possible to identify tests for PCS, due to the issues listed for Question 1.

- 5) On average how many diagnostic tests do women presenting with pelvic pain receive prior to formal diagnosis.

For tests conducted within primary care, please see the notes accompanying Question 1. Within secondary care, diagnostic tests are not recorded within SUS data and, in any case, it would not be possible to identify tests for PCS, due to the issues listed for Question 1.

- 6) What information is offered to women who present with pelvic pain?

We are not aware of any formal policy regarding what information is provided.

- 7) On average, how much money a year is spent on diagnostic tests for women presenting with pelvic pain?

For tests conducted within primary care, please see the notes accompanying Question 1. Within secondary care, diagnostic tests are not recorded within SUS data and, in any case, it would not be possible to identify tests for PCS, due to the issues listed for Question 1.

Can I suggest you contact Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust directly on:

<http://www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/FOI.aspx>

There are three ways you can do this:

- 1. Fill in the online 'Freedom of Information Request Form' at the link above***
- 2. Email FOI@lwh.nhs.uk***
- 3. Post to:***

***Freedom of Information
Executive Office
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Crown Street
Liverpool
L8 7SS***

We wish to take this opportunity to inform you that a formal complaints and internal review procedure is available to applicants who are unhappy with responses provided to FOI requests. You can formally request an internal review within a reasonable period of time (2 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you are not satisfied with the decision of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a further review of that decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure in the first instance.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you require any further information, clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

**Customer Relations Lead
NHS Liverpool CCG**