

Ref: FOI/00117/CMICB
10 November 2022

Your Request:

1) Has Cheshire and Merseyside implemented the NICE guidelines [NG206] on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: diagnosis and management, which were published on 29 October 2021?

If the NICE guidelines [NG206] on the diagnosis and management of ME/CFS have not been implemented, what is the intended timetable and deadline for implementation?

2) How many patients with a diagnosis of ME/CFS are receiving care from Cheshire and Merseyside as of the date of this FOI request?

3) Of those receiving care for ME/CFS from Cheshire and Merseyside, how many have a personalised care and support plan in place as of the date of this FOI request?

4) What training has been provided by Cheshire and Merseyside for healthcare professionals on the implementation of the NICE guidelines [NG206] on diagnosis and management of ME/CFS since 29 October 2021?

5) What written information is being provided to health professionals and patients on websites in line with the recommendations on diagnosis and management in the NICE guidelines [NG206].

Our Response:

1 - 5) Please be advised that NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB is a commissioner of healthcare services and not a provider. As a result, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB would not directly implement the NICE guidelines [NG206] on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: diagnosis and management, which were published on 29 October 2021. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB would however expect our commissioned healthcare providers to follow NICE guidance where appropriate.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold information on the number of patients with a diagnosis of ME/CFS currently receiving care, or how many have a personalised care and support plan.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold information on training received by healthcare professionals on the implementation of the NICE guidelines [NG206] on diagnosis and management of ME/CFS since 29 October 2021, or any information which has been provided to health professionals.

For information ME/CFS services are a highly specialised Tier 4 service and delivered on a regional level via Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via FOIRequests@liverpoolft.nhs.uk.