

Our Ref: ID 1994

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group  
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## **Re: Freedom of Information Request - Cost of Chronic Pain**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### **You Asked for:**

1. How many consultations are there per year in each of the following care settings for chronic pain. Please provide us with the financial years of 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
  - a. How many consultations are there in Community services?
  - b. How many consultations are there in Primary care (general practice)?
  - c. How many consultations are there in Secondary Care (Acute Hospitals)
2. How many patients per year does that represent? In each care setting for each of the following financial years (2018-2019), (2019-2020) and (2020-2021).
  - a. Primary care (general practice) - in the years (2018-2019), (2019-2020) and (2020-21).
  - b. Community Services - in the years (2018-2019), (2019-2020) and (2020-2021)
  - c. Secondary care (acute hospitals) - in the years (2018-2019), (2019-2020) and (2020-21)
3. What is the total cost of medication per year for Chronic Pain? Please give us the total cost for providing the following analgesics on prescription in each of the following care-settings: (Primary = GP and Community Services) and (Secondary = Acute Hospital Settings) for the following years: 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. Please note, we recognise that it may be impossible to dissociate the prescription of these drugs for pain or for other indication. In that case, please just provide us with the total cost irrespective of indication. Please consider referring to the British National Formulary (BNF) analgesics chapter.
4. Do you have a secondary care pain unit in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)? If so, how many referrals are made to this unit per year? For the following financial years: (2018-19), (2019-20) and (2020-21).
5. Do you have community pain services? If so, how many consultations are made to these services per year? For the following financial years: (2018-19), (2019-20) and (2020-21). How are these services commissioned?
6. What is the total cost of care per year for Chronic Pain? In each setting for each financial year.
  - a. Primary care (general practice) - in the years (2018-2019), (2019-2020) and (2020-2021).
  - b. Community Services - in the years (2018-2019), (2019-2020) and (2020-21).

- c. Secondary care (acute hospitals) - in the years (2018-2019), (2019-2020) and (2020-21).

### **Our Response:**

1. Unfortunately, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is unable to provide a response for this question due to how our data is recorded. Patients experiencing pain may be provided for within a number of different aspects, for example, therapies, chronic pain, and psychological support. This means that the data that we have on record for "pain" will not accurately answer this question.
2. Please see the answer for question number 1.
3. Please see the attached spreadsheet for further information.

#### Analgesics at Community and Primary Care

The total spend for NHS Wirral CCG in 2020/2021 was £2,566,999 (British National Formulary (BNF) Chapters 4.7.1 and 4.7.2, Source EPACT2). Please note this is all drugs in the listed BNF Sections listed, it will include some analgesics used for acute pain.

#### Acute care

NHS Wirral CCG are unable to provide a response for this section. All analgesics used in chronic pain within the analgesic section of the BNF can be and are used in acute pain and also, there are other modalities used primarily within secondary care for managing chronic pain services which are not within that BNF section. Please can I suggest that you contact Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) directly? I have included their contact details below, should you wish to do so.

WUTH –

4. NHS Wirral CCG is unable to provide a response. Please can I suggest that you contact Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) directly? I have included their contact details above, should you wish to do so.
5. Please see the answer for question number 1.
6. Please see the answer for question number 1.

In addition, please can I refer you to the National Tariff Payment System Guidance that you can identify the specialities of treatment:

[NHS England » National tariff payment system](#)

Also, please refer to Annex A (tab 2. Outpatient) for a list of Treatment Function Codes:

[NHS England » National tariff payment system documents, annexes and supporting documents](#)

We hope this information is useful, however, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team, (contact details at the top of this letter).

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