

Our Ref: ID 1998

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
Marriss House
Hamilton Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 5AL
Tel: 0151 651 0011

Re: Freedom of Information Request - Sacroiliac procedures

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on the 8th October 2021.

You Asked for:

1. Could you please confirm for your Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), during the timeframes below, the number of episodes of care you have processed for your commissioned services with NHS Trusts? We have put at the end of the request some supporting info to help with identifying the procedure, based on National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and NHS Digital coding.
 - a. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint steroid injections:
 - i. 2018/2019
 - ii. 2019/2020
 - b. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint Radiofrequency Ablations (RFA)
 - i. 2018/2019
 - ii. 2019/2020
 - c. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint surgical procedure.
 - i. 2018/2019
 - ii. 2019/2020
2. Please could you confirm if your commissioned NHS Trusts require individual funding requests (IFR) for this procedure Sacroiliac joint steroid injection?
 - a. If yes, what is the number of IFR's during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 your CCG have received from NHS Trusts for Sacroiliac joint injections if their policy requires this?
 - i. 2018/2019 Number accepted
 - ii. 2018/2019 Number rejected
 - iii. 2019/2020 Number accepted
 - iv. 2019/2020 Number rejected
3. Please could you confirm if your commissioned NHS Trusts require individual funding requests (IFR) for this procedure Sacroiliac joint Radiofrequency ablations (RFA)?
 - a. If yes, what is the number of IFR's your CCG have received from NHS Trusts for Sacroiliac joint Radiofrequency ablations (RFA) if their policy requires this?
 - i. 2018/2019 Number accepted
 - ii. 2018/2019 Number rejected
 - iii. 2019/2020 Number accepted
 - iv. 2019/2020 Number rejected

4. Please could you confirm if your commissioned NHS Trusts require individual funding requests (IFR) for this procedure Sacroiliac joint surgical?
 - a. If yes, what is the number of IFR's your CCG have received from NHS Trusts for Sacroiliac joint surgical if their policy requires this?
 - i. 2018/2019 Number accepted
 - ii. 2018/2019 Number rejected
 - iii. 2019/2020 Number accepted
 - iv. 2019/2020 Number rejected
5. Please can you confirm how many Sacroiliac joint injections a single individual funding request covers for a patient per year and on-going?
6. Please can you confirm how many Sacroiliac joint RFA procedures a single individual funding request covers and the interval between procedures?
7. Could you please provide a copy of the latest service specification for your Sacroiliac joint services that you have with your NHS Trust, which shows the care pathway that you provide?

Our Response:

1. Please see below:
 - a. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint steroid injections:
 - i. 36.
 - ii. 35.
 - b. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint Radiofrequency Ablations (RFA)
 - i. 205.
 - ii. 122.
 - c. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint surgical procedure.
 - i. 0.
 - ii. 0.
2. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has policy eligibility criteria which needs to be met. An Individual Funding Request (IFR) is only submitted if the clinician feels that the patient is exceptional to the policy.
 - a. Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH).
 - i. 0.
 - ii. As the number of people within the scope of your request is very low the information cannot be disclosed as it could potentially identify those individuals, especially if combined with other data. This would be a breach of the first data protection principle. This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is personal information.
 - iii. 0.
 - iv. Please see the answer to question 2.a.ii.
3. There is no requirement to submit an IFR for Sacroiliac joint RFA's.
 - a. Not applicable.
 - i. 0.
 - ii. 0.
 - iii. 0.
 - iv. 0.
4. There is no requirement to submit an IFR for Sacroiliac joint surgery.
 - a. Not applicable.
 - i. 0.
 - ii. 0.
 - iii. 0.

iv. 0.

5. An IFR is only submitted if the clinician feels that the patient is exceptional to the policy.
6. Please see the answer to question number 5.
7. The diagnostic and treatment pathway for this area is as per National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance. There is no specific service specification in place. In addition, NHS Wirral CCG have a policy for Procedures of Limited Clinical Value which covers joint injections and would link into treatment for this area also. Please see the link provided below for further information (Section 16.2).
<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/media/6279/plcp-policy-2019-2020-updated-4-6-19-pdf.pdf>

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).

Re- Use of Information

Most of the information that we provide in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group. The copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner.

For information where the copyright is owned by Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group please e-mail foirequests.nhswirralccg@nhs.net to request a reuse licence.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.