

Our Ref: ID 2004

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### You Asked for:

- 1) What allergy services do you commission for your population? Please differentiate between children and adults?
- 2) Please describe current pathways for children (and adults) who have presented with suspected and/or confirmed anaphylaxis? Both at A+E and within Primary Care Settings
- 3) Who in the organisation has responsibility for the commissioning and monitoring of performance for allergy services? Please provide Job Title and Salary Band.
- 4) Please provide details of how performance monitoring is undertaken for allergy service(s) and list KPIs used to monitor performance of the service(s)?
- 5) Have you taken any steps to improve allergy services you commission during the last five years? If yes, please describe them?
- 6) What is the referral criteria into local allergy services?
- 7) How are allergy referrals prioritised?
- 8) Covering the most recent 12-month period (up to when data is available). What was the average wait time from referral to the patient receiving an appointment with an allergy service?
- 9) What patient feedback/experiences do you routinely collect relating to allergy services provision?

### Our Response:

- 1) What allergy services do you commission for your population? Please differentiate between children and adults?***

#### **Children:**

Allergy Services are provided at Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH). WUTH offers a comprehensive service for children with a variety of allergies, including food, dust, animal, pollens and mould spores. The allergy team (a consultant respiratory paediatrician, a paediatric respiratory specialist nurse and a dietitian) also care for children with related problems of asthma, allergic rhino conjunctivitis, urticaria, angioedema and anaphylaxis.

Services available:

## ROUTINE ALLERGY MANAGEMENT

- skin prick testing
- blood (IgE and component) testing
- dietitian support
- adrenaline auto-injector training
- food challenges
- allergy management planning for home and schools

## SPECIALIST EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

- antibiotic challenges
- joint allergy clinics at Alder-Hey Children's Hospital

### **Adults**

Adults are referred based on their allergy:

- For allergy testing etc referral is into a specialist unit in Liverpool  
<https://www.rbuht.nhs.uk/departments/medical-specialisms/clinical-immunology-and-allergy/>

This is not commissioned locally.



Broadgreen Allergy  
Service details Nov 21

- For breathing issues / asthma patients are referred to the locally commissioned respiratory service at WUTH.
- For skin allergies patients can be referred to one of two locally commissioned Dermatology service – WUTH or Peninsula.

### ***2) Please describe current pathways for children (and adults) who have presented with suspected and/or confirmed anaphylaxis? Both at A+E and within Primary Care Settings***

Within Primary Care, individual practices have their own policies; however most follow the National Resuscitation Council guidelines <https://www.resus.org.uk/library/2021-resuscitation-guidelines> and this forms part of their annual training.

In secondary care, pathways are in place for both children and adults



anaphylaxis-in-childre  
n-v5.pdf



anaphalaxis-pathway  
1a.pdf

### ***3) Who in the organisation has responsibility for the commissioning and monitoring of performance for allergy services? Please provide Job Title and Salary Band.***

Allergy services provided by WUTH are delivered within a wider contract covering a wide range of services. This is monitored from a performance and quality perspective on a monthly basis. The level of detail examined at these review meetings does not extend to smaller individual services such as allergies.

There is not a dedicated Commissioner for Allergy Services. Work is undertaken as and when required, for example, if service gaps are identified, guidance changes requiring redesign, concerns and complaints are evident or demand outstrips capacity. In these instances, a Commissioning Manager, Band 7 is likely to be asked to support this work.

**4) Please provide details of how performance monitoring is undertaken for allergy service(s) and list KPIs used to monitor performance of the service(s)?**

See response to Question 3.

**5) Have you taken any steps to improve allergy services you commission during the last five years? If yes, please describe them?**

From a commissioning perspective, no significant work / material changes have been undertaken to review or improve these services. However, this would not preclude the provider from implementing changes that do not represent a material change.

**6) What is the referral criteria into local allergy services?**

See response to Q1

**7) How are allergy referrals prioritised?**

This would be a clinical decision based on the GPs assessment in line with guidance. Secondary care would also triage in line with clinical judgement and guidance.

**8) Covering the most recent 12-month period (up to when data is available). What was the average wait time from referral to the patient receiving an appointment with an allergy service?**

The CCG does not receive data or hold this data. This data would be held at provider level.

**9) What patient feedback/experiences do you routinely collect relating to allergy services provision?**

The CCG receives Compliments, Concerns and Complaints, If a theme emerges this would inform the commissioning workplan that may initiate a review and redesign.

The CCG does not routinely collect patient feedback/ experience information unless undertaken as part of a service deep dive or review.

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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