

17th October 2019

Dear Requester

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - RESPONSE
FOI Reference: OPTUM FOI 500-711 – SWL CCG

I refer to your request for information received on 1st October 2019. I can confirm on behalf of NHS South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) supported by Optum Commissioning Support Services, and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information on access to NICE-recommended non-pharmacological therapy for the management of low back pain and/or sciatica:

1. Psychological therapies (using a cognitive behavioural approach):

- a) Are GPs able to refer NHS patients with chronic pain to this service?
(Yes/No)

RESPONSE:

- (i) Yes - as of the 1st April 2019 – psychological therapies are part of the Community Pain Management Service offering.
- (ii) Prior to April 2019 there were no psychological therapy services for Chronic Pain in Lincolnshire. Access to such services was external to Lincolnshire and limited.
- (iii) Data from providers didn't breakdown the activity further, unless specific requests made

- b) How many NHS patients were referred in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)

RESPONSE:

- (i) From the 1st April 2019, nearly 6000 patients have transitioned across from existing providers. Many of whom were never offered the opportunity for psychological therapies. The service is currently working through a clinical assessment to review and agree patients' clinical pathway. Approximately 3,633 new patients have entered the service.

- c) What was the average waiting time in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)

RESPONSE:

- (i) As a new service working through transition patients and new patients ' current data is not representative of the proposed pathway. Patients have initial assessment within 20 working days of referral. Follow up treatment have to commence within working 40 days of initial assessment.

2. Manual therapy (spinal manipulation, mobilisation or soft tissue techniques such as massage):
 - a. Are GPs able to refer NHS patients with chronic pain to this service? (Yes/No)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) GPs can refer to AQP MSK Pain Assessment and Treatment Service (PATS)
 - (ii) Yes, and of the 1st April 2019 as part of the Community Pain Management Service for patients assessed as clinically appropriate for such treatments.
 - b. How many NHS patients were referred in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) Please refer to Appendix 1 which details AQP Physio Referrals. The total numbers in the table in Appendix 1 shows the number of NHS patients with initial appointments at SQP MSK Providers, not the number of referrals from GP Practices. The numbers should be very similar, but the date of referral would be different to the date of initial appointment. The data is only until July 2019 as the CCG has not yet received data from all providers for August 2019 and September 2019, so if included would not be a true representation of the activity.
 - c. What was the average waiting time in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) This data is not held by the CCG.
3. Group exercise programme (biomechanical, aerobic, mind–body or a combination of approaches):
 - a. Are GPs able to refer NHS patients with chronic pain to this service? (Yes/No)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) Not commissioned.
 - b. How many NHS patients were referred in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) Not commissioned.
 - c. What was the average waiting time in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) Not commissioned.
4. Pain Management Programmes:
 - a. Are GPs able to refer NHS patients with chronic pain to this service? (Yes/No)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) Yes - as of the 1st April 2019 – pain management programmes are part of the Community Pain Management Service offering.
 - (ii) Prior to April 2019 there were no pain management programmes for Chronic Pain patients delivered in Lincolnshire. Access to such services was external to Lincolnshire and limited.
 - b. How many NHS patients were referred in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)
RESPONSE:
 - (i) Prior to April 2019 no activity in Lincolnshire. However, patients had limited access to PMP provided by surrounding Trusts, in particular, NWAFT, Sheffield, however data doesn't identify which patients attended a PMP. Each session for each patient tends to be coded as a consultant appointment.

c. What was the average waiting time in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)

RESPONSE:

- (i) As a brand new service, commencing 1st April 2019, because of the mix of transition patients and new patients, the data requested is not available.

I trust that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Optum Health Systems Support
FOI TEAM
South Kesteven District Council Offices
St. Peter's Hill
Grantham
NG31 6PZ

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the CCGs.

The Information Commissioner's contact details can be found here:

<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from the CCG. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

Yours faithfully

FOI Team
On behalf of NHS South West Lincolnshire CCG

Appendix 1 – AQP Physio Referrals

Date: Date of Initial Appointment Between April 2017 - July 2019

Initial Tariff Desc: First appointment & follow up treatment needed; First appointment & no follow up treatment needed; DNA & Discharge

CCG: 03T; 04D; 04Q; 99D

b. How many NHS patients were referred in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (to date)

Please note the total numbers in the below table are the number of NHS patients with Initial Appointments at AQP MSK Providers, not the number of referrals from GP Practices.

The numbers should be very similar, but the date of referral would be different to the date of initial appointment.

The date is only until July 2019 as we have not yet received data from all providers for August 2019 & September 2019, so if included would not be a true representation of the activity.

DER_Provider (Multiple Items)

Initial_Tariff_Desc (Multiple Items)

Number of Initial Appointments	
Initial Appointment Date	04Q: NHS South West Lincolnshire CCG
2017/18	5047
2018/19	5800
2019/20 M01-04	2984
Grand Total	13831