Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email, dated 14 December 2018, making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for access to information which may be held by NHS Greater Preston Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Please find detailed below NHS Greater Preston CCG’s response to your request, which is formatted as follows:-

1. Details of NHS Greater Preston CCG’s decision in regard to the information requested.
2. A schedule of all the records covered by your request.
3. A statement concerning copyright and re-use of public sector information.
4. Details of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these parts in turn:-

1. Decision

I can confirm that NHS Greater Preston CCG holds part of the information requested.

2. Schedule of records/FOI response

Request:
1. Any care pathways for the investigation and management of patients with symptomatic palpitations and/or syncope referred to cardiac services in your trust by GPs. Of particular interest is the role and positioning of diagnostic investigations such as cardiac rhythm monitoring, cardiac imaging and cardiovascular performance assessment.
2. Details of both national and locally negotiated tariff arrangements applied to this service
3. Does the GP have direct access to the cardiac monitoring service?
4. Is the patient seen by a cardiologist before having the monitor attached?
5. If not, who undertakes the process (e.g. technician, nurse etc)
6. What is the first pass monitoring technology (e.g. 24hr, 48hr, 7-day event triggered etc)
7. What happens after the first pass monitoring – are all seen by a cardiologist or is there a pre-appointment triage process?
8. What other tests are ordered (e.g. 12-lead ECG, Echo etc), at which stage in the pathway and for which patients?
9. What determines who is selected for 2nd pass monitoring and what technology is used for this?
10. What determines who is discharged back to the GP?
11. What is the current tariff for 24 hr, 48 hr, 7-day Holter Monitoring
12. What is the tariff for referral to community cardiology investigation clinics
13. What is the tariff for direct referrals for GPs for 24hr, 48 hr and 7-day Holter Monitoring

Response: The CCG does not hold this level of information. We would suggest that this is redirected to the provider of cardiology services. Our main provider is Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which can be contacted by email at: freedomofinformation@lthtr.nhs.uk. Our main community provider is *Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, which can be contacted by email at: Freedom.OfInformationRequests@lancashirecare.nhs.uk.

The tariff for referral to, and monitoring by, the cardiology teams at the acute trust is as per national tariff. Details of national tariffs can be found at: https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/national-tariff-1719/.

We are unable to advise the tariff for referral to the community trust as these services are provided as part of a block contract. This information may be available from the community trust as detailed above.

3. Copy and reuse of public sector information provided in FOI response

Most of the information provided by NHS Greater Preston CCG in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In the majority of cases the information will be owned by NHS Greater Preston CCG. The copyright for other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated in the information itself: in this case you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. It may also be used for the purposes of news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example, by publishing the information or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright owner.

4. Right of appeal to FOI response

If you are dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you are entitled to complain in the following way:

Initially you should complain in writing to the freedom of information officer, either by email on gpccg.foi@nhs.net or post to Chorley House, Lancashire Business Park,
Leyland, PR26 6TT, specifying why you feel you have been wrongly denied access to the information requested. The freedom of information officer will ensure your complaint is investigated under NHS Greater Preston CCG’s internal processes and provide you with a written response within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Greater Preston CCG.

Yours sincerely

Helen Curtis
FOI Lead
Head of Quality and Performance