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

Thank you for your email, dated 13 February 2019, 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: How many patients do you have on biologic/highcost drugs?

   Response: The CCG does not hold this level of information.

   Request: Do you have a prescribing pathway that you follow for Rheumatoid arthritis with methotrexate?

   Do you have a prescribing pathway that you follow for Rheumatoid arthritis monotherapy?

   Do you have a prescribing pathway that you follow for PSA/AS?

   Can you share copies of your prescribing pathways if you have them?

   What are your options for treating patients that have had multiple treatment failures for each indication?

   Response: This information can be found on the Lancashire Medicines Management website at: http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/.
Request: How do you treat patients when they reach the end of their treatment choices?

Response: Not applicable. This would be a clinical decision.

Request: Do you have an IFR process and how easy is it to navigate?

Response: Yes, the CCG has an individual funding request process, details of which can be found on our website at: https://www.greaterprestonccg.nhs.uk/clinical-and-prescribing-policies.

Request: How many IFR’s have you submitted in the past financial year for Rheumatology?
   How many IFR’s have you had approved this financial year?

Response: The CCG has had no applications for funding for rheumatology in the last financial year.

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