



29 March 2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 000259

I refer to your email of 4 March requesting information in respect of patients with symptomatic palpitations and/or syncope referred to cardiac services by GPs.

I can confirm on behalf of Great Yarmouth and Waveney, North Norfolk, South Norfolk, Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold some of the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

Request

Please supply details of:

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

North Norfolk, South Norfolk and Norwich CCGs

1. Cardiology symptoms will mean a GP will refer to a cardiology pathway provided at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NNUH): General Cardiology Clinic, GUCH (Grown-Up Congenital Heart Disease) Clinic, Pacemaker, CRT and ICD Clinic, Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic, Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinics, Pre Assessment Clinics, Cardiomyopathy Clinic, Cardiac Genetics Clinic. NNUH should be able to assist you further and can be contacted at <http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information-foi/>
2. All tariffs are national and can be found published at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/pay-syst/national-tariff/tariff-engagement/>
3. Yes; NNUH have a Echocardiography Service
4. No
5. Clinicians, who are trained to use monitoring equipment. NNUH should be able to assist you further.
6. This is not held by the CCGs; NNUH should be able to assist you further.
7. This is not held by the CCGs; NNUH should be able to assist you further.
8. This is not held by the CCGs; NNUH should be able to assist you further.
9. This is not held by the CCGs; NNUH should be able to assist you further.
10. This is not held by the CCGs; NNUH should be able to assist you further.
11. See (13) below
12. The CCG's do not have any community clinics
13. All Holter interventions are grouped under one tariff: OPCS is U195; HRG RY51Z rate of £125

West Norfolk CCG

The information sought is not held by the CCG however should be held by a separate organisation, West Norfolk Health, consisting of 21 local GP practices.

West Norfolk Health should be able to assist you further and can be contacted at <https://www.westnorfolkhealth.co.uk/>

Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG

1. Cardiology symptoms will mean a GP will refer to a cardiology pathway provided at the James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (JPUH): General Cardiology Clinic, Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic and Heart Failure Clinic. Further referrals are made to specialist clinics at NNUH by the cardiology consultants at JPUH. JPUH should be able to

assist you further and can be contacted at <https://www.jpaget.nhs.uk/contact-us/freedom-of-information/>

2. All tariffs are national and can be found published at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/pay-syst/national-tariff/tariff-engagement/>
3. Yes; JPUH have a Echocardiography Service
4. No
5. Clinicians, who are trained to use monitoring equipment. JPUH should be able to assist you further.
6. This is not held by the CCGs; JPUH should be able to assist you further.
7. This is not held by the CCGs; JPUH should be able to assist you further.
8. This is not held by the CCGs; JPUH should be able to assist you further.
9. This is not held by the CCGs; JPUH should be able to assist you further.
10. This is not held by the CCGs; JPUH should be able to assist you further.
11. See (13) below
12. The CCG's do not have any community clinics
13. We have a block contract with JPUH. This includes the direct referrals for GPs for 24hr, 48 hr and 7-day Holter Monitoring. However nationally all Holter interventions are grouped under one tariff: OPCS is U195; HRG RY51Z rate of £125.

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

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

Arden & GEM CSU
FOI Team, Room 18
Scarsdale
Newbold Road
Chesterfield
S41 7PF

Email agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net

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 the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, email casework@ico.org.uk

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Yours faithfully

Philip Humphreys

FOI Manager, Arden & GEM CSU

**On behalf of
Great Yarmouth and Waveney,
North Norfolk, South Norfolk
Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs**