

Date: Thursday, 03rd November 2022
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5396

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5396

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 14th October 2022.

Your request was as follows:

1. Has The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust implemented the NICE guidelines [NG206] on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: diagnosis and management, which were published on 29 October 2021?

If the NICE guidelines [NG206] on the diagnosis and management of ME/CFS have not been implemented, what is the intended timetable and deadline for implementation?

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold this information. However, Section 16 of the FOIA places a duty on us to provide help and assistance where possible and I am able to advise you that:

Although there is some overlap of CFS/ME symptoms with neurological conditions (and also with endocrine and rheumatological conditions), our role is mainly in ensuring that we are excluding neurological mimics of CFS/ME and once we have done this, we suggest a referral to CFS/ME specialist service such as LUFT and so our role is mainly confined to the 1.2 section of the guideline (suspecting ME/CFS) which we fulfil.

We are currently in the process of assessing the guidance, however we suspect that in the most part it will not be relevant to WCFT but may include some recommendations related to patients with CSF/ME receiving treatment for pain here, which we are currently assessing compliance against any relevant recommendations.

2. How many patients with a diagnosis of ME/CFS are receiving care from The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust as of the date of this FOI request?

N/A

3. Of those receiving care for ME/CFS from The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, how many have a personalised care and support plan in place as of the date of this FOI request?

N/A

4. What training has been provided by The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust for healthcare professionals on the implementation of the NICE guidelines [NG206] on diagnosis and management of ME/CFS since 29 October 2021?

We are currently in the process of assessing the guidance, however we suspect that in the most part it will not be relevant to WCFT but may include some recommendations related to patients with CSF/ME receiving treatment for pain here, which we are currently assessing compliance against any relevant recommendations.

5. What written information is being provided to health professionals and patients on websites in line with the recommendations on diagnosis and management in the NICE guidelines [NG206].

N/A

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

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All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

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 the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5396 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information