

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-801

7 November 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

Does the trust currently have a Bronchiectasis pathway?

Yes

If no, why?

Not applicable

Is there a plan to implement one? And how so? Will it be based on the NICE and British Thoracic Society Guidelines?

If yes, please provide when the current Bronchiectasis pathway was implemented.
2019

Are they based on the NICE and British Thoracic Guidelines?

Yes

Is physiotherapy a key part in your trusts acute Bronchiectasis management?

Yes

Since implementation, are more patients being referred to physiotherapy? Has there been an improvement in patient outcomes/management of bronchiectasis? Pre and post implementation, what are the referral statistics to physiotherapists?

We follow NICE guidelines in terms of completing annual reviews. It is difficult to establish whether there has been an increase or decrease in referrals from an outpatient perspective as there has not been any significant change to the referral process for many years. We don't specifically complete outcomes measures apart from the bronchiectasis severity index / BORG and MRC, patients are managed in accordance with BTS guidelines and quality standards.

There is a physiotherapist present as part of the bronchiectasis clinic, as well as having a

separate physio-led outpatient bronchiectasis clinic (both run weekly). Inpatients have access to chest physiotherapy when indicated.

Patient's being admitted into hospital with acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis, are they being referred to physiotherapists on admission?

Yes

Average waiting time for referral to physiotherapists?

Inpatient (acute exacerbation):

Within 24 hours or sooner dependent on need

Outpatients:

Average waiting time for initial new patient appointment: 8 weeks (Referrals triaged as urgent seen within 4-6 weeks)

How do you refer to a physiotherapist? Paper, digital or verbal communication?

For outpatients' referrals are made by email or via an electronic form. For inpatient referrals may be made by the above methods or verbally either in person or over bleep/telephone.

If there is a referral form to physiotherapy, what does this consist of?

There is an electronic referral form containing detail of the referrer, priority, patient details and specific requirements and clinical information on the reason for review and their medical history.

Is there a criteria for a patient (admitted with acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis) that they need to meet for a referral to physiotherapy? If so, what are the criteria?

Referral is based on clinical grounds.

What have been the goals of the trust since the implementation of the Bronchiectasis pathway? And has there been improvement? Are the goals being achieved?

This is not recorded.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, 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:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above 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 Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**