

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 24-242**

25 March 2024

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 hold some of the information you are requesting

**1. How many patients are referred to your Trust annually with a suspected diagnosis of PoTS and how many diagnosed PoTS patients are under active care under specialties within the Trust?**

We can only provide data for how many current inpatients there are and there are currently none.

**2. Is there evidence of an increase in referrals of PoTS patients since May 2020 due to patients suffering with long-Covid?**

This is not recorded.

**3. How many patients with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of PoTS are seen annually in the Emergency Department or admitted as an emergency?**

Year	Total no of patients
2020	15
2021	7
2022	13
2023	21

*Please note we can only provide a yearly total of patients who were admitted via the Emergency Department with a confirmed diagnosis of PoTS.*

**4. To which individual specialty or specialties are PoTS patients referred for investigation, diagnosis and longer-term management? e.g., cardiology, neurology, care of the elderly, paediatrics. Please specify separately for children and adults, where**

**applicable.**

Adults: Cardiology

Paediatrics: Patients are usually referred to the Paediatric Cardiology service due to the symptoms they present with, however BRHC do not offer a diagnosis and assessment service for PoTS.

**5. Within your Trust do a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients diagnosed with PoTS have access to a specialised PoTS clinic or service for treatment by dedicated clinicians with an interest/expertise in the condition? If so, please provide details of specialised adult and paediatric services in place.**

Adult patients are seen by the electrophysiology specialist team.

Paediatrics: BRHC are not commissioned and therefore do not offer a specialist PoTS service for paediatric patients.

**6. Where dedicated PoTS services are available within your Trust, are there any restrictions in place around acceptance of new referrals or longer-term management of patients? Please specify any restrictions imposed.**

Adults: None

Paediatrics: Not applicable

**7. If no specialist PoTS services are in place within your Trust, do you reject referrals (back to referring GP), accept referrals under general acute services e.g., cardiology / neurology (please specify) or refer on to a known specialist service elsewhere? (please specify where).**

Adults: Accept appropriate referrals into cardiology

Paediatrics: The Paediatric Cardiology service will often see patients in an outpatient clinic initially, to understand if there is any cardiovascular related condition that they can offer diagnosis and treatment for, however if a PoTS diagnosis looks likely then they will advise for the patient to be referred to a PoTS specialist if possible.

**8. How is activity coded for adult and paediatric patients with a diagnosis of PoTS attending for a first or follow up outpatient appointment or admitted to inpatient care?**

Patients seen in clinic will be recorded as a first attendance or follow-up attendance as applicable.

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

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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**