

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Tuesday 12th March 2024. I am pleased to confirm the following.

Please consult with cardiology, neurology, emergency medicine, care of the elderly and paediatrics specialties to provide the information requested.

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?

Please see attached document.

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

Please see attached document.

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

Please see attached document.

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.**

Primarily Cardiology, other services tend to see patients with other symptoms who report having a PoTS diagnosis already (such as neurology).

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.

No specialised service.

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.

No specialised service.

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).

Accepted and typically seen under cardiology primarily. Neurology tends to see patients already diagnosed with PoTS.

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?

A diagnosis of POTS (postural tachycardia syndrome) within an inpatient admission for paediatrics or an adult is coded as I49.8 and G90.8.

When a patient attends an outpatient appointment, diagnosis codes are not used. Only procedure codes are assigned if stated by the clinician on the outpatient coding form. If a procedure is not performed, then a first or follow-up attendance tariff is assigned automatically.

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If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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