NHS
Milton Keynes University Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

581- FOI - 4949 - Ophthalmology new appointments

Question	Response
1. Referral-to-Treatment time for cataract surgery (C71 to C77), by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19	The Trust reports waiting times/list data as per national requirements and for waiting list, the Trust is obliged to report on incomplete pathways at a specialty/Trust level, but not at an intended procedure level. The Trust reports the number of patients who are waiting at any given moment in time (usually at the end of the month for national reporting) the length of time the patient has waited based on RTT (referral to treatment) rules; the length of time waited at any given moment in time is characterised by the events associated with the patient pathway and these events; the consequential impact can therefore be different for each patient, and there is a significant risk the length of time waited at any given moment in time may be skewed. It is our understanding that the information requested in this particular question is referring to those patients treated in a particular month and providing a retrospective time taken between the date the patient is referred to the hospital and the date the patient receives their definitive treatment, and counting the number of patients that waited over a certain number of weeks. As each patient pathway is unique and characterised by the nuances in terms of events in the pathway which could impact the length of time they have waited from when they are referred, providing the RTT waiting time over certain amounts of time would be misleading. Furthermore, waiting list data has the intended procedure the patient is due to have and this may not always be the actual final procedure a patient has when they undergo treatment and therefore aligning treatment with waiting list data retrospectively is extremely difficult and fraught with challenges, particularly where a patient may be waiting for multiple and different treatments.

Questions	Comments	FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19
2. Average time waited before a first appointment with an ophthalmologist as a new patient, by month or by year for FY17, FY18 and FY19	Provided is the average waiting time (in weeks) of the Ophthalmology new appointment waiting list as of the end of the financial year (31st March 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively).	3.36 weeks	4.43 weeks	4.05 weeks
3. Number of new patients waiting for over 10 weeks for a first appointment with an ophthalmologist as a new patient, by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19	Provided are the number of patients waiting over 10 weeks for a new Ophthalmology appointment as at the end of the financial year (31st March 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively)	15	34	68
4. Number of new patients waiting for over 18 weeks for a first appointment with an ophthalmologist as a new patient, by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19	Provided are the number of patients waiting over 18 weeks for a new Ophthalmology appointment as at the end of the financial year (31st March 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively)	2	20	3