

6 February 2025

### ***Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000***

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Wednesday 22nd January 2025. I am pleased to confirm the following.

#### **How many episodes of care were coded by your organisation in 2024 (both inpatient and outpatient)?**

Activity data can be obtained from the following publicly available websites.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/supplementary-information/2025/non-elective-inpatient-spells-at-english-hospitals-occurring-between-01-04-2020-and-30-11-2024-for-patients-aged-18-and-65>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/provisional-monthly-hospital-episode-statistics-for-admitted-patient-care-outpatient-and-accident-and-emergency-data/april-2024---november-2024>

#### **How many episodes of care went uncoded in 2024?**

All appropriate episodes of care were coded in 2024 and there were no appropriate episodes of care that went uncoded.

#### **How much income do you estimate was not generated due to uncoded activity?**

£0, as all appropriate episodes of care were coded in 2024.

#### **Can you provide the split of coding volumes between specialities (e.g., oncology, cardiology)?**

Please see response to Q1 as data is publicly available on these websites and via other links on the NHS Digital website.

#### **Please explain how your organisation manages coding activity.**

Activity (inpatients and outpatients) is clinically coded by the Clinical Coding Team.

#### **Are outpatient and inpatient coding managed by the same team or separate teams?**

Inpatient and outpatient coding is managed by the same team.

#### **How many Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) staff complete clinical coding for the Trust?**

21 WTE staff complete clinical coding for the Trust.

**What proportion of the total WTE staff for clinical coding is substantive (permanent), bank staff, and agency staff?**

We aim to substantive staff in the clinical coding team and do not use bank staff. Currently we have 2 members of staff on a short-term contract to cover a period of time between staff members leaving and new staff members starting.

**Does the Trust currently have any automated solutions in place for clinical coding?**

The Trust is testing a solution for automating clinical coding.

**If yes, please explain the automated solution that is in place.**

Beamtree

**If not, is the Trust planning to implement automated coding solutions in the next 12–24 months? Or would it be interested in exploring potential solutions?**

The Trust is planning to implement automated coding solutions in the next 12-24 months.

**Is the Trust currently on Payment by Results (PbR), block contracts, or another financial model?**

There is a mixture of NHS Payment System and block contracts depending on the commissioner.

**What clinical coding systems or software does the Trust currently use to capture clinical codes?**

Medicode

**Does your Trust's Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system integrate clinical coding, or do clinical departments use standalone systems?**

Our EPR system integrates with Medicode to allow us to clinically code episodes of care on the EPR.

**What are the main challenges the Trust faces in clinical coding (e.g., timeliness, accuracy, staffing shortages)?**

Difficulty in recruiting trained staff.

**Could you provide the contact details (name, job title, and email) of the person who is ultimately responsible for overseeing clinical coding within the Trust?**

Under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act – personal information. MKUH does not give out the names of staff members.

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

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Administrator  
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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