

Date: 15/04/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8544

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – POSTNATAL DEPRESSION

I write in response to your request for information in relation to postnatal depression.

Question:

1. The number of women diagnosed with postnatal depression in your health board area each year from 2018 until 2023 (inclusive).
 - a. Can these be broken down into statistics for each year.

Answer:

We cannot provide this information because diagnosis is not recorded on outpatient episodes. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:

2. Of those women diagnosed with postnatal depression in each of those years (2018 to 2023), how many have been admitted for inpatient treatment?
 - a. Can these be broken down into statistics for each year

Answer:

I am advised we can only provide information on number of admissions where diagnosis code was F53.0 ((Mild mental and behavioural disorders associated with the puerperium). This is the primary code which represents postpartum depression itself, but as above we cannot provide the information specific to your request because the diagnosis (postnatal depression) is not recorded against the episodes.

Question:

3. Of those women diagnosed with postnatal depression in each of those years (2018 to 2023), how many received outpatient treatment including counselling, CBT, medication etc?
 - a. Can these be broken down into statistics for each year

Answer:

As above due to lack of diagnosis recording, we can only provide information on number of patients seen by the Perinatal Mental Health Team. However, not all of these patients will be seen due to postnatal depression, so the available information would not answer your specific request.

I am sorry I cannot help further with your request if you would like more general information as detailed above. Please let me know.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive