

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MIGRAINE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to migraine services.

Question:

1. Service existence and configuration

- a) Does your NHS body host, or directly provide a dedicated headache and/or migraine service/clinic? If yes, please specify whether it is: dedicated headache clinic; migraine clinic; neurology clinic with dedicated headache sessions; community service; or other (please describe).

Answer:

Adult headache service:

Headache clinics in DCN are 1.5 weekly and twice monthly, depending on which specialist patients are booked with.

Patients with headache are also seen in general neurology clinics across various sites in NHS Lothian

Paediatric headache service:

A quaternary referral headache clinic - one 3 patient clinic per month for new patients - these YP are then followed up within a review clinic which is for all review patients (not just headache). We do not have a headache specialist nurse although the pain team nurse specialists are often involved with the young people (YP) who have refractory headache.

Initial GP referrals for migraine/headache are seen and managed by general paediatrics. They did a 14 week audit last year of referrals and have 4 headache referrals a week - these referrals will either be responded to with advice to GP or the YP reviewed within general paediatric clinics with ongoing f/u under general paediatrics. YP are referred to the quaternary clinic if management is tricky or there is an unusual headache phenotype.

Question:

- b) Please provide the service name(s), provider organisation(s)/site(s), and patient group(s) served (adult, paediatric, or both). Headache clinic

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

Answer:

NHS Lothian

Headache clinics are located within DCN and SJH (Department of Clinical Neurosciences) at the RIE (Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh) site

Question:

2. Named clinical/service lead

- a) Please provide the name, job title, and employing organisation of the current named clinical/service lead for the headache/migraine service/pathway.
- b) If there is no single named lead, please provide the name(s) and title(s) of the most senior clinician(s) responsible for headache/migraine care/pathway governance.

Answer:

Dr Mireia Moragas, Consultant Neurologist, NHS Lothian

Dr Patrick Urwin, Consultant Neurologist, NHS Lothian

Question:

3. Workforce size (headcount and WTE)

For the most recent 12-month period available (or the latest point-in-time establishment), please provide the staffing complement allocated to the headache/migraine service/pathway, broken down as follows:

- a) Nurses (including headache specialist nurses/ANPs) – headcount and WTE, and banding (e.g., Agenda for Change band) if recorded.

Answer:

There are zero headache specialist nurses

There is a botox clinic led by 2 ANPs twice a week.

Question:

- b) Pharmacists (clinical pharmacists, prescribing pharmacists, medicines optimisation) – headcount and WTE, and banding/grade if recorded.

Answer:

There are zero specifically allocated to headache, but we do receive support from the DCN Pharmacists regarding processing headache biologic prescriptions (e.g. CGRP medications) and other hospital prescriptions (e.g. unlicensed medications such as Flunarizine)

Question:

- c) Administrative/clerical staff – headcount and WTE, and banding/grade if recorded.

Answer:

There are zero specifically allocated to headache, however Dr Moragas and Dr Urwin's neurology secretaries do process letters from clinic appointments about headache.

Question:

- d) Any other staff groups materially involved in the service (optional but helpful): consultants/medical staff, allied health professionals, psychologist, physician associates – headcount and WTE.

Answer:

There are zero.

Question:

4. Service capacity indicators (optional but helpful)

- a) Number of headache/migraine clinics/sessions delivered per week or per month (or annual total).

Answer:

Difficult to answer exactly. The current template is 1.5 headache clinic/week for Dr Moragas, and 2 headache clinics/month for Dr Urwin, and answering in either months or years would require the months to have the same number of weeks, which they do not.

Question:

- b) Number of new and follow-up appointments for headache/migraine in the last 12 months (if recorded).

Answer:

Dr Urwin's clinics are each 5 new and 5 follow up, however, many headache follow up appointments end up in his general neurology clinics, meaning the number of follow ups is higher than this, although I do not have exact numbers. Due to pressures on appointments and growing waits for follow up appointments, many follow ups are offered above/beyond the clinic template, often as telephone reviews.

Dr. Moragas's clinics 4NP, 4-6 FU weekly and 5NP, 6-7 FU twice monthly plus many adhoc overbookings depending on pressures of the service. Also many headache FU spilling into my general neurology clinic.

Question:

- c) Current waiting time for first appointment (e.g., median or RTT measure used locally) for headache/mig

Answer:

Approximately 10 weeks



Waiting times for Follow Up at the moment are 8 months for both clinics.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive