



5 June 2019

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

**FOI Reference Number: 000535**

I refer to your email of 13 May requesting information in respect of Axial Spondyloarthritis Services; copy attached.

I can confirm on behalf of Great Yarmouth and Waveney, North Norfolk, South Norfolk, Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold some of the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

The information sought is not held by the CCGs however should be held by the provider organisations which includes Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which can be contacted at <http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information-foi/> and Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust <http://www.gehkl.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information.asp?s=advice&ss=making.a.freedom.of.information.request&p=freedom.of.information>

However, regarding Q1 we can advise that within Norwich, North and South Norfolk if there is evidence of inflammatory back pain, patients are referred by a GP to the Rheumatology Department at the NNUH for further investigation.

Additionally, within Great Yarmouth and Waveney the CCG has commissioned a Musculoskeletal Triage Service for patients with orthopaedic, pain management or rheumatological MSK conditions. Information is available on the Knowledge Anglia website <https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/> GPs have been made aware of the referral criteria, inclusions and exclusions for MSK triage. Triage performed within 48 hours of receipt of referral. If clinically appropriate, referrals may be forwarded directly to the relevant specialist service in the acute hospital, otherwise, patients will receive a full MSK assessment with the specialist physiotherapist, including an X-ray if appropriate, within three weeks. Patients may then be given self-management or advice, community physiotherapy or other community therapy support, or referred to secondary care. Patients also have access to self-refer for advice via the community Physio Direct service without the need for a GP referral.

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM CSU  
FOI Team, Room 18  
Scarsdale  
Newbold Road  
Chesterfield  
S41 7PF

Email [agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net](mailto:agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Yours faithfully

Philip Humphreys

**Corporate Senior Manager, Arden & GEM CSU**

**On behalf of  
Great Yarmouth and Waveney,  
North Norfolk, South Norfolk  
Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs**