

Ref: FOI/00350/CMICB  
11 May 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Phlebotomy Service Contracts**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

**Your Request:**

- 1) Cost - what is it - per head of population and how much / if block contract for how much total and how many patients within the provider population**
- 2) Who it is provided by at that place**
- 3) Does it cover hospital outpatient blood request and if so which ones are included / excluded is this and additional payment and if so how much**
- 4) Are consumables supplied or have to be bought by provider**
- 5) Expected wait time for appointments under the contract for routine bloods**
- 6) Any expected delivery maximum or minimum delivery per head of population**

**Our Response:**

Please find listed below the requested information held regarding phlebotomy Service Contracts in each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

**Cheshire**

1 - 2) Please find listed below the providers of phlebotomy services across Cheshire, broken down by each former CCG area, along with the calculated cost per patient per annum (where known):

- *General Practice (GP):* £0.52.
- *Vernova CIC:* £0.52.

Phlebotomy services are also commissioned via a block contract for a range of healthcare services from the below NHS Trusts with no specifically defined spend on the phlebotomy service provision:

- *Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*
- *Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*
- *Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*

3) The above hospitals provide their own internal acute phlebotomy services, as well as capacity to provide community phlebotomy.

4) Consumables are purchased by the providers.

5 - 6) Non specified.

### **Halton**

1) Phlebotomy services are commissioned via a block contract for a range of healthcare services, with no specifically defined spend on the phlebotomy service provision.

2) Phlebotomy services are commissioned in Halton from *St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust* and *Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*.

3) The above hospitals provide their own internal acute phlebotomy services, as well as community phlebotomy.

4) Consumables are purchased by the provider.

5) Generally 2 days and a maximum of a week.

6) No.

### **Knowsley**

1) Phlebotomy services are commissioned via a block contract for a range of healthcare services, with no specifically defined spend on the phlebotomy service provision.

2) Phlebotomy services are commissioned from *Alder Hey Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust* (under 18s) and *Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust* (over 18's).

3) The above phlebotomy services are community services which are delivered outside of the acute hospital setting.

4) Consumable are included as part of the overall block contract payment.

5) Currently the average waiting time for a routine appointment is 48 hours.

6) The only expected delivery time specified for the phlebotomy service contracts is urgent bloods should be seen within 24 hours.

### **Liverpool**

1) Cost per patient was £3.26 based on the 2022/23 contracts for phlebotomy services.

2) Phlebotomy services are commissioned from *Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust* (clinics/domiciliary) as well as within GP Practices in Liverpool.

3) No.

4) Consumables are purchased by the provider.

5) Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, 10 days for routine bloods.

6) Expected activity level per annum per provider. Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust is the prime provider of phlebotomy in Liverpool under a block contract arrangement. General Practices supplement the Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust capacity in the city with a maximum level of activity specified.

### **Sefton**

- 1) Phlebotomy services are commissioned with the provider via a block contract for a range of healthcare services, with no specifically defined spend on the phlebotomy service provision. Additionally, GP Practices also provide phlebotomy services at a cost of £2.70 per venepuncture.
- 2) Phlebotomy services are commissioned from *Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust* (clinics/domiciliary) as well as within GP Practices in Sefton.
- 3) No. Hospitals are paid under national tariff arrangements for all diagnostic activity undertaken.
- 4) Consumables are purchased by the provider.
- 5) Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust is 10 days for routine bloods and for General Practice's offering an appointment system should offer an appointment within 48 hours.
- 6) There is an expected activity level with Merseycare NHS Foundation Trust. For General Practice there is none.

### **St Helens**

- 1) The total cost of community phlebotomy services in St Helens is £223,790 per annum, with a cost per head of population of £1.13 and a registered population of 197,590.
- 2) Phlebotomy services are commissioned in St Helens from *St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust*.
- 3) The phlebotomy services commissioned from St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals provides services within Whiston and St Helens hospitals, as well as in the community.
- 4) Consumables are sourced by provider.
- 5) Routine referrals are expected to be seen within 10 days.
- 6) No.

### **Warrington**

- 1) Phlebotomy services are commissioned via a block contract for a range of healthcare services, with no specifically defined spend on the phlebotomy service provision.
- 2) Phlebotomy services are commissioned in Warrington from *Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust* and *Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*.
- 3) No, hospital outpatient blood requests are part of the nationally agreed tariff charges.
- 4) Consumables are purchased by the providers.
- 5 - 6) Non specified.

### **Wirral**

- 1) £2.176 per patient based on weighted population 377,817. Total registered population of Wirral 339,545. Block payment arrangement £822,274. In addition, £64,958 is provided for hospital bloods taken in the community by practices, therefore total contract value is £887,232 up to June 2023.
- 2) Phlebotomy services are commissioned via GP practices in Wirral.
- 3) There is an additional payment to GP practices annually for hospital bloods undertaken in general practice, currently this is £64,958 in total. The total

contract value was £887,232 up to June 2023. Hospital bloods excluded from the community service due to specialised handling include:

- *Aldosterone/Renin – lithium heparin blood collecting bottle (green top)*
- *Insulin/c-peptide – Serum separator tube (ochre top) collected on ice*
- *Gut hormones – EDTA blood collecting tube (collected on ice)*
- *Lactate – Fluoride blood collecting tube (grey top)*
- *White cell enzymes - EDTA blood collecting tube*
- *ACTH – EDTA blood collecting tube*
- *Calcitonin – Serum separator tube (ochre top) collected on ice*
- *CTX - EDTA blood collecting tube*
- *Homocysteine - EDTA blood collecting tube*
- *GTT for pregnancy (maternity and clinic 5 can undertake these)*
- *Less frequent tests i.e. those needing to be with the lab within a certain timeframe, need to be on ice etc.*

4) Consumables are inclusive of the contract funding.

5) Please find listed below the current expected wait times for urgent/routine bloods:

<b>Referral Type</b>	<b>Referral to Testing</b>
Routine Referral	Within 5 working days from referral
Urgent Referral	Within 2 working days from referral

6) No.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing [foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk) and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)*

