

Ref: FOI/00392/CMICB
26 May 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Diagnostic Tests**

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 can provide you with the following information held and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

1) What criteria did Cheshire and Merseyside ICS use to decide on the specific procedures, methodologies and equipment that would be used to complete the diagnostic tests delivered by the community diagnostic centres commissioned by the Integrated Care System?

Our Response:

1) National guidelines, pathways, financial envelope, deliverability, timescales, existing procedures, demand and capacity, computability with existing systems*.

Your Request:

2) What public and patient consultation did Cheshire and Merseyside ICS carry out surrounding the specific procedures, methodologies and equipment that would be used to complete the diagnostic tests delivered by the community diagnostic centres commissioned by the Integrated Care System?

Our Response:

2) Each site underwent local engagement to cover the Community Diagnostic Centre setup, initial tests, and capacity. During implementation, this has (and will) continue to evolve through needs and engagement*.

Your Request:

3) What discussions has Cheshire and Merseyside ICS had the on need to adjust the way diagnostic tests are delivered by the community diagnostic centres commissioned by the ICS, to make their delivery of tests and checks more efficient?

Our Response:

3) Community Diagnostic Centre tests are commissioned, monitored and managed to the same standards as other diagnostic tests within the system, including productivity, costs and performance standards*.

Your Request:

4) Which specific procedures are conducted by Healthcare Professionals within each diagnostic test available in the Community Diagnostic Centres commissioned by Cheshire and Merseyside ICS; and b) can the ICS provide a list of any applicable NICE Guidance followed within the diagnostic tests carried out in Community Diagnostic Centres commissioned by Cheshire and Merseyside ICS?

Our Response:

4) Community Diagnostic Centres do not undertake procedures, as they deliver diagnostic tests*.

*Please note that Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not commission Community Diagnostic Centre activity and instead provides them in line with national guidance. It is the NHS England programme which commissions and funds the Community Diagnostic Centre activity. You may therefore wish to redirect any further requests for information on Community Diagnostic Centres to NHS England, who can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: england.contactus@nhs.net

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 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*

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.