

Ref: FOI/00326/CMICB  
27 April 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Testosterone Prescribing**

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.

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:**

**Can you please tell me if GPs in Cheshire West are permitted to prescribe testosterone for women with low libido during perimenopause and/or menopause in line with NICE clinical guidelines or if a GP is required to make a referral to a specialist.**

**Our Response:**

Information detailing the current prescribing of Testosterone in Cheshire is published on the Cheshire Formulary website, which can be accessed via the following link and currently has a status of 'AR' (*Amber Recommended - Requires specialist assessment and recommendation to GP to prescribe in Primary Care*):

<https://www.cheshireformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=6&SubSectionRef=06.04.02&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=3594#3594>

However, for information work is in progress at NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB to finalise further draft guidance regarding the prescribing of testosterone. This further draft guidance has been out to formal consultation and is expected to be on the May 2023 Formulary and Guidelines Subgroup meeting for review, before going for approval at the Area Prescribing Group in June 2023 (Please note that this timescale assumes that no further work is needed). It is understood that the current draft guidance still recommends 'specialist initiation' with the caveat that the specialist might be in primary care. However, until the further draft guidance is approved the current formulary status stands.

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)

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