

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_66_22

You asked:

I am writing to request information regarding services that you provide for musculoskeletal conditions, and specifically low back pain. I would appreciate your help with the following questions. The questions are all with regards to outpatient and/or community physiotherapy services:

1. What is the current average waiting time for a musculoskeletal physiotherapy appointment for a new referral or self-referral for non-specific lower back pain? (if you are not able to answer this specifically for low back pain please provide the figure for musculoskeletal physiotherapy more generally)

The average waiting time for all MSK physiotherapy conditions more generally is 2 weeks.

2. How has the waiting time for musculoskeletal physiotherapy appointments for lower back pain changed over the historical time period for which you have data? If possible, an annual figure for each of the last 5-10 years would be most helpful. (Again, please answer for general musculoskeletal physiotherapy services if you do not hold specific data for back pain).

Please see below data available – this is for new patient referrals coded as 'back', for primary care and secondary care musculoskeletal physiotherapy service.



3. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services for lower back pain?

I can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information for lower back pain. The detailed information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

4. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services across all musculoskeletal conditions?

2,455.

5. Does your musculoskeletal physiotherapy service(s) accept self-referrals from patients for back pain (as opposed to requiring a GP or primary care referral)?

Yes.

6. What percentage of general practice appointments within your region are for back pain? (or musculoskeletal conditions more broadly if this is the only data level held)

The Health Board does not capture this information. However the CTMUHB population reflects the national data; approximately 20-30% of GP consultations are for musculoskeletal problems.

7. What is the average healthcare spend per patient in your region for non-specific low back pain?

We do not currently collect this information.

8. How does the average healthcare spend per patient for non-specific low back pain break down across different services and costs?

We do not currently collect this information.

9. Do you currently commission NHS musculoskeletal physiotherapy services from any private providers? If yes, what proportion of your overall MSK physiotherapy spend is with private providers?

CTMUHB physiotherapy service do not commission MSK services from private providers.