

Our Ref: ID 2025

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group  
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CH41 5AL  
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## **Re: Freedom of Information Request - Functional Neurological Disorder (FND)**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

### **You Asked for:**

1. Does your commissioning agreement within your Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) inclusive of treatment for Functional Neurological Disorder (FND)?
2. Can you please confirm that the commissioning agreement within your CCG provides each of the following services and that people with FND are eligible to be referred and receive this treatment:
  - a. Neurological physiotherapy
  - b. Neurological occupational therapy
  - c. Speech and language therapy and
  - d. Psychological therapies
3. Can you please provide a list of the services offered and contact details which include both Inpatient and Community/Outpatient Rehabilitation Services as advised in question 2?
4. If your commissioning agreement excludes the treatment of Functional Neurological Disorder, can you please provide details of which services in your CCG areas accepts referrals for treatment for Functional Neurological Disorder?
5. Do you have plans to improve access to treatment for people with FND? If so, can you provide details of what improvements are being implemented?
6. Would you or your colleagues be interested in accessing clinical support/education about FND involving specialist clinicians?

### **Our Response:**

1. Currently there is no specific service commissioned to meet the needs of patients with Functional Neurological Disorders (FND). If patients are admitted to Wirral University Hospital Foundation NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) and they have FND, they may receive services at Clatterbridge Resource Centre (CRC) or Arrowe Park Hospital including Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy or Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) services. Patients may also be referred to Improving Access to Psychological Therapy (IAPT) services provided by Insight Healthcare (Talking Together Wirral) where an assessment for suitability for support from IAPT services can be made. In addition, patients with complex neuro-rehabilitation needs may also be suitable for inpatient

services commissioned from the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (Cheshire and Merseyside Rehabilitation Network).

2. Please see the answer to question number 1.
  - a) This is not specifically commissioned (although patients may benefit from the general Physiotherapy service).
  - b) This is not specifically commissioned (although patients may benefit from the general Occupational Therapy service).
  - c) The general Speech and Language Therapy service does not exclude referral for patients with FND.
  - d) Patients with FND may be referred to Improving Access to Psychological Therapy (IAPT) services provided by Insight Healthcare (Talking Together Wirral) who are able to assess suitability for support from IAPT services.
3. NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) does not commission an outpatient rehabilitation service for patients with FND. In terms of inpatient services, the relevant service providers are WUTH and CRC. For Psychological Therapy services, Insight Healthcare (Talking Together Wirral) in Birkenhead provide IAPT services.
4. FND is not an exclusion from NHS Wirral CCG's commissioning arrangements. Please see the answer to question 2.
5. Not currently.
6. NHS Wirral CCG has a Primary Care Education Protected Learning Time programme for General Practice staff but the remit is not usually specialist education. Please can I suggest contacting the Cheshire and Merseyside Rehabilitation Network (CMRN) whose remit includes supporting the sharing of education/learning as it relates to complex rehabilitation across Cheshire and Merseyside, to see whether there is availability and/or interest in their educational activities for that? The CMRN can be contacted via the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust. I have included their contact details below, should you wish to do so.

The Walton Centre - [enquiries@thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk)

We hope this information is useful, however, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team, (contact details at the top of this letter).

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