

Your Request:

1) For each of the financial years April 2020- March 2021 and April 2021- March 2022, and for the current financial year so far:

a) How many people living with a neurological condition in your region received an initial checklist assessment for CHC, and how many of these went on to the full assessment?

b) What proportion of people a neurological condition who received a full CHC assessment in your region were found to be eligible for CHC?

c) How many people living with a neurological condition in your region received a fast-track CHC assessment?

d) What proportion of people living with a neurological condition in your region who received a fast-track assessment were found to be eligible for CHC?

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information held in relation to CHC assessment data in respect of patients with a neurological condition for each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

1a – d) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Halton & Warrington

1a – d) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Knowsley

1a – d) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Liverpool/Sefton/Southport & Formby

1a – d) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

St Helens

1a – d) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Wirral

1a – d) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Your Request:

2) For each of the financial years April 2020- March 2021 and April 2021- March 2022 and for the current financial year so far, please provide:

a) The number of decisions made in your region resulting in ineligibility for NHS continuing healthcare for a person living with a neurological condition that were subsequently overturned following local review.

b) The number of requests made in your region for an independent review panel following a local review upholding a decision of ineligibility for NHS continuing healthcare for a person living with a neurological condition.

c) The number of decisions of ineligibility for NHS continuing healthcare for a person living with a neurological condition in your region that were overturned at the independent review panel.

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information held in relation to CHC decisions and reviews in respect of patients with a neurological condition for each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

2a – c) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Halton & Warrington

2a – c) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Knowsley

2a – b) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

2c) No decisions of ineligibility for CHC at independent review panel between April 2020 overturned to date for any patients.

Liverpool/Sefton/Southport & Formby

2a – c) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

St Helens

2a) No information held for the 2020/21 financial year held. For the 2021/22 financial year, there were a total of 4 cases overturned following local review for patients with a neurological condition. For the 2022/23 financial year (to date), there has been a total of 1 case overturned following local review for patients with a neurological condition.

2b - c) No information held for the 2020/21 financial year held. For the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial year (to date) there have been no cases upheld/overturned at independent review panel for patients with a neurological condition.

Wirral

2a – c) The database system used to record CHC data does not record 'neurological conditions' as a specific separate category to enable us to report this data for the time periods requested*.

Your Request:

3) For each of the financial years April 2020- March 2021 and April 2021- March 2022 and for the current financial year so far, please provide:

a) The median time taken in your ICB area to conduct NHS continuing healthcare assessments, from receiving the initial checklist to notifying the applicant of the eligibility result.

b) The range of time taken (i.e. shortest time and longest time) in your ICB area to conduct NHS continuing healthcare assessments, from receiving the initial checklist to notifying the applicant of the eligibility result.

c) The number of eligibility reviews for people who have previously been found to be eligible for CHC funding which result in CHC funding being taken away.

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information held in relation to CHC assessment data for each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

3a) 2020/21: 29 days. 2021/22: 28 days. 2022/23 (to date): 25 days.

3b) 2020/21: Shortest was same day, longest was 1,966 days. 2021/22: Shortest was same day, longest was 401 days. 2022/23 (to date): Shortest was same day, longest was 326 days.

3c) 2020/21: 1. 2021/22: 6. 2022/23 (to date) 19.

Halton & Warrington

3a – c) The database system used to record CHC assessment data does not enable reporting to provide this specific information for the time periods requested*.

Knowsley

3a - c) The database system used to record CHC assessment data does not enable reporting to provide this specific information for the time periods requested*.

Liverpool/Sefton/Southport & Formby

3a – c) You may wish to redirect your request for this information to MLCSU, as the commissioned provider of CHC Services for the Liverpool, Sefton/Southport & Formby CCG areas. MLCSU can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via NHS England at the following email address: england.contactus@nhs.net.

St Helens

3a - b) The database system used to record CHC assessment data does not enable reporting to provide this specific information for the time periods requested*.

3c) For the 2020/21 financial year there was a total of 21. For the 2021/22 financial year there was a total of 16. For the 2022/23 financial year (to date) there has been a total of 20.

Wirral

3a) 2020/21: 124 days. 2021/22: 32 days. 2022/23 (to date): 28 days. Please note this does not include referrals which were discounted prior to assessment. Caution should also be taken with the median duration for 2020/21 listed above because of significant backlogs in assessments caused by the Covid deferred assessment process. This data is not for neurological conditions alone as diagnosis information is not routinely reported within the CHC management system

3b - c) The database system used to record CHC assessment data does not enable reporting to provide this specific information for the time periods requested*.

For information, wider data on waiting times around the CHC assessment process are published and publicly available on the NHS England website via the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/>

Your Request:

4) Does your ICB always ensure involvement of professionals with expert knowledge of the neurological condition when conducting assessments of people for NHS continuing healthcare? For example an MND specialist nurse or a neurologist.

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information received in relation to involvement of professionals with expert knowledge of the neurological condition when conducting assessments of people for CHC the services commissioned in the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

Yes, where possible.

Halton Warrington

Yes.

Knowsley

Each assessment is treated on an individual basis. Often the source of information is via the GP, who have all information held for their patients from the healthcare professionals involved in their care.

Liverpool/Sefton/Southport & Formby

4) You may wish to redirect your request for this information to MLCSU, as the commissioned provider of CHC Services for the Liverpool, Sefton/Southport & Formby CCG areas. MLCSU can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via NHS England at the following email address: england.contactus@nhs.net.

St Helens

If there is a Specialist Nurse involved in a patient's care, they will be asked to attend the DST or provide information on diagnosis, treatment etc. If a patient is under a consultant, it is our experience that they will not attend a DST. However, shared care records will be accessed to see what information is held by the GP regarding diagnosis, treatment, discharge information etc. Written discharge summaries/letters will be reviewed as part of the evidence for the DST. If a DST is held in a Spinal unit/Rehab unit, where a Consultant is on site, then they will be invited to attend.

Wirral

The decision-making tool (DST) is carried out using a multi-disciplinary approach by the appropriate professionals who are involved in the individuals care and their next of kin. Additional information is also sought from other professionals who have input the care to ensure that the assessment truly reflects the patients' needs.

* NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's CHC Teams do potentially hold this information requested. However, this is not reportable via the various database systems used across the CHC Teams. To comply with this part of your request would require a member of staff to search, locate, retrieve and review each patient CHC file across all former CCG areas to identify this specific information.

Due to the number of CHC patient files that would require review to obtain this specific information, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has estimated that compliance with this part of your request for information would therefore exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 (18 hours in staff time). NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB is therefore engaging Section 12: 'Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit', of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to this part of your request.