

FOI 2879

12th February 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing to request information regarding the Clozapine initiation protocol within Southern Health and Social Care Trust, specifically in relation to the following points:

1. Clozapine Titration Protocol:

Please provide a copy of or details about the current Clozapine initiation protocols used by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. This includes the procedures, guidelines, and any specific criteria followed for titrating Clozapine doses.

Response:

Please see 4 documents attached from ZTAS for the general process for clozapine guidelines that staff work to. The regional initiation pathway and regional initiation charts both standard and slow are shared to outline the monitoring undertaken.

2. Clozapine initiation:

How many patients with an ICD-10 diagnosis of F20 to F29 were on the caseload in 2024? How many patients were initiated on clozapine in 2024 in any setting?

Response:

ICD-10 diagnosis is not recorded centrally. Diagnosis of patients is usually recorded by consultants in case notes and/or letters written from consultants to the patient GP which would require a manual audit of all records.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you have requested as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. To obtain this information would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Part 2: There were 25 patients initiated on clozapine in 2024 this includes 12 patients who had a treatment break and needed to be re-titrated.

3. Outpatient Clozapine Initiation:

Does Southern Health and Social Care Trust offer Clozapine initiation in an outpatient setting? If so, how many patients were initiated via this route in 2024?

Response:

Part 1: yes this is supported by admission to HTCR

Part 2: There were <5 patients who fully undertook initiation in community and <5 patients who completed titration in the community.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

4. Specialised Teams vs. CMHT Responsibilities:

Is Clozapine titration conducted by a specialised or dedicated team within Southern Health and Social Care Trust? Do Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) carry out clozapine initiation as part of their general duties? If it is done by a specialised / dedicated team, please provide further details regarding the structure of the team.

Response:

Clozapine titration is not conducted by a specialised or dedicated team within the Southern Trust. Community Mental Health Teams do not carry out Clozapine titration as part of their general duties. It is completed by practitioners in Home Treatment Crisis Response service or in-patient services.

5. Clozapine Titration for Under-18s:

Does Southern Health and Social Care Trust offer Clozapine initiation for patients under the age of 18? If so, when was this practice introduced and are there any specific guidelines for titrating Clozapine in this age group?

Response:



We do not routinely offer clozapine titration for patients under 18. If clozapine is required we would approach the regional inpatient unit in Beechcroft to request that this is done as an inpatient.

We therefore do not have any guidelines for titrating Clozapine in this age group.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net