

FOI 3232

6th August 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1. How many FC Physiotherapists (Band 8a) are employed by the Southern Trust?

Response:

There are 11 Band 8a First Contact Physiotherapy Practitioners employed by the Southern Trust and working in Primary Care GP Practices

Question 2. Do First Contact Physiotherapists employed by the SHSCT start on band 8 pay grade upon commencing post (even if have got Independent Prescribing qualification) or only after completing independent prescribing course?

I ask this as note in contrast Western Trust has linked post where staff enter at band 7 and only move band 8 where they have completed required qualification as independent prescriber and I have cited reference below

Response:

The First Contact Physiotherapy Practitioner recruited to a Band 8a Job description start on Band 8a Agenda for Change Pay scale.

One of the Band 8a Job description essential criteria is a qualification in Post Graduate Certificate in Medicines management, (or equivalent level training), enabling registration on the HCPC Independent Prescriber register or requirement to complete training within 2 years of appointment.

The Band 7/8a link post has been used when we have not been able to appoint to the Band 8a post. Staff need to meet all of the essential criteria of Band 8a before they can progress to that band. The qualification in Post Graduate Certificate in Medicines management, (or equivalent level training), enabling registration on the HCPC Independent Prescriber register or requirement to complete training within 2 years of appointment is just one of these essential criteria.

Question 3. How many band 8 Physiotherapists are employed in Daisy Hill Hospital?

Response:

There are 6 Band 8a Physiotherapists employed in Daisy Hill Hospital.

Question 4. How many band 8 Physiotherapists are employed in Craigavon Hospital?

Response:

There are 4 Band 8 Physiotherapists employed in Craigavon Area Hospital.

Question 5. With regards to FC Physiotherapists employed in Primary Care who are independent prescribers, is there a list of medications they are allowed to prescribe from as independent prescribers? If so, I would like a copy of same.

Response:

During completion of the University course students develop knowledge and skills in the use of drugs in their area of practice and formulate their own personal core formulary for use within their personal field of practice.

On qualification this formulary undergoes Clinical Governance processes as part of entry to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust Non-Medical Prescribers Trust Register.

The list below is an example of a FCP staff member's formulary:

Paracetamol	
Co-Codamol	Colchicine
Codeine Phosphate	Allopurinol
Dihydrocodeine Tartrate	Baclofen
Co-dydramol	Methocarbamol
Tramadol	Diazepam
Oxycodone	Lidocaine Hydrochloride
Morphine Sulphate	Bupivacaine Hydrochloride
Buprenorphine Transdermal Patch	Levobupivacaine (Chirocaine)
Fentanyl Transdermal Patch	Triamcinolone Acetonide
Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	Methylprednisolone
Gabapentin	Lansoprazole
Pregabalin	Omeprazole
Duloxetine	Lactulose
Aspirin	Senna
Ibuprofen	Macrogol
Celecoxib	Prochlorperazine
Etoricoxib	Cyclizine
Diclofenac Sodium	Alendronic Acid
Diclofenac Potassium	Risedronate Sodium
Naproxen	Ibandronic Acid
Piroxicam	Calcium & Vitamin D

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