

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7584

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
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Maidstone, Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net
www.mtw.nhs.uk

22 September 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Axial Spondyloarthritis Services.

You asked:

- 1. On behalf of which NHS Trust are you responding?*
 - 2. Does your Trust have a local inflammatory back pain pathway in place?*
 - 3. Do you have a local education programme for primary care practitioners including GPs and first contact practitioners? Please give details.*
 - 4. Are you aware of the average current waiting time from when a patient is referred from their GP to receiving their diagnosis. By this we mean from the moment the referral is received by rheumatology until the patient receives an official diagnosis.*
 - 5. What is the average current waiting from when a patient is referred from their GP to receiving their diagnosis. By this we mean from the moment the referral is received by rheumatology until the patient receives an official diagnosis.*
 - 6. How do you ensure patients are given information and support following their diagnosis?*
- Please select all response options which apply*
- 7. What guidance are patients with axial SpA given when deciding whether to access biologic treatment?*
 - 8. Does the rheumatology department have access to a specialist physiotherapist.*
 - 9. What percentage of adults with axial SpA (AS) are referred to a specialist physiotherapist as described above for a structured exercise programme within your local area when first diagnosed?*
 - 10. Do you provide patients with individual care plans when they are newly diagnosed?*
 - 11. Does this include specific information on flares?*

12. Does the Trust have a dedicated axial SpA clinic? By this we mean a day or time when patients with axial SpA are seen by a multi-disciplinary team.

13. Which health professionals are available as part of the axial SpA clinic multi-disciplinary team?

14. Are axial SpA (AS) patients under the care of a rheumatologist offered access to psychological services?

Trust response:

1. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

2.

☒ No

3.

☒ No

4.

☒ Don't know / not sure

5.

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
2 – 3 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6.

Option	Please tick here (tick all that apply)
Written information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Verbal information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Access to a helpline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

7.

☒ Written information

☒ Discussion with rheumatologist/rheumatology nurse specialist / other HCP

8.

☒ No, patients are referred to community physiotherapy

9.

10.

☒ Yes, care plans as part of their diagnosis letter

11.

☒ Yes

12.

☒ Yes

13.

☒ Consultant rheumatologist

☒ Registrar rheumatologist

14.

☒ No

Please give details of any mental health support available.