

Our ref: FOI ID5461

12 August 2015

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NHS South Sefton CCG

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding fertility treatments within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/[Response](#):

Could I please request under the freedom of information act (2000) the following:

- Number of referrals from for your CCG relating to Fertility treatment; could this information please be split by the Provider the referral was sent to.
- The time period required is the 1st April 2013 to 30 June 2015; could this please be split into the month the referral was sent.

The standard nationally mandated referrals dataset which is made available to CCGs from Providers via the Secondary Uses Service is based on a number of mandated data fields. Referrals are sent to a particular specialty* at a Provider. Fertility treatment is not a speciality within the list which makes it very difficult to identify referrals for fertility treatment. If a referral was to be made for fertility treatment, it would be made to the gynaecology specialty in the first instance but patients are referred to gynaecology specialty for many different reasons, not just for fertility treatment meaning it's impossible to isolate this activity from the dataset. Also, whilst an initial referral may be made to a Provider this may/may not result in fertility treatment being given and indeed not all patients complete the treatment (some may become ill and are not able to continue, some may conceive naturally for example). In conclusion, the CCG do not hold the information specific to your query, but you may be able to request it from Providers directly.

Please redirect your query to:-

Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
FOI@lwh.nhs.uk

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust
soh-tr.foi@nhs.net

* More information about specialty codes is available here:
(http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/web_site_content/supporting_information/main_specialty_and_treatment_function_codes_table.asp?shownav=1)