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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding diagnostic testing activity, planning and funding services within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/[Response](#):

Activity and waiting times

1. Please confirm how many of the following diagnostic tests have been carried out in your area in each financial year since April 2013: (a) x-ray; (b) ultrasound; (c) CT scan; (d) MRI scan; (e) gastroscopy; (f) colonoscopy; (g) flexible sigmoidoscopy; and (h) histopathology.
2. Please confirm what the average waiting time in your CCG was for the following tests in each financial year since April 2013: (a) x-ray; (b) ultrasound; (c) CT scan; (d) MRI scan; (e) gastroscopy; (f) colonoscopy; (g) flexible sigmoidoscopy; and (h) histopathology.

For questions 1 and 2, monthly data on diagnostics and waiting times is available nationally via <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/monthly-diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/>

Unfortunately, X-Ray does not appear in the link above, NHS South Sefton CCG have searched their available SUS data to get the required data. NHS South Sefton CCG does not hold waiting time data with regards to X-Rays.

South Sefton CCG X-Rays

Year	A&E	Inpatient	Outpatient
2013/14	19,391	2	564
2014/15	20,487	2	589
2015/16	19,060	1	425
2016/17	18,017	0	269
Grand Total	76,955	5	1,847

Please note: A&E data based upon any investigation code of 01 (X-Ray Plain Film)

Inpatient and Outpatient data based upon any procedure code containing:

U064 Plain x-ray of skull

U073 Plain x-ray of chest

U083 Plain x-ray of abdomen

U134 Plain x-ray of joint

U135 Plain x-ray of bone

U217 Plain x-ray NEC

Funding

- Please confirm your CCG's budget allocation to fund imaging, pathology and endoscopy activity in each financial year since April 2013, and what it is forecast to be in 2017/18.

NHS South Sefton CCG does not hold the data for 2013/2014 or 2017/2018.

South Sefton CCG - Imaging

Year	Actual Price	Price Plan
2014/15	£1,214,034	£485,865
2015/16	£2,112,487	£2,004,544
2016/17	£2,274,568	£2,188,687

South Sefton CCG - Endoscopy

Year	Actual Price	Price Plan
2014/15	£2,255,871	£2,386,624
2015/16	£3,111,175	£2,740,049
2016/17	£3,011,082	£2,925,627

South Sefton CCG - Pathology

01T - South Sefton CCG			
Specialty Description	Financial Year	Price Plan	Price Actual
Chemical pathology	2014/15	£53,884	£50,533
	2015/16	£147,163	£49,290
	2016/17	£100,291	£68,090
Chemical pathology Total		£301,338	£167,913
General pathology	2014/15	£2,240,604	£2,277,828
	2015/16	£2,281,582	£2,552,934
	2016/17	£2,573,015	£2,785,024
General pathology Total		£7,095,201	£7,615,786
Haematology	2014/15	£0	£15,422
	2015/16	£11	£25,522
	2016/17	£28,781	£5,054
Haematology Total		£28,793	£45,999
Histopathology	2014/15	£0	£11,991
	2015/16	£0	£2,442
	2016/17	£1,552	£848
Histopathology Total		£1,552	£15,281
Immunopathology	2014/15	£0	£177
	2015/16	£0	£505
	2016/17	£0	£33
Immunopathology Total		£0	£714
Medical microbiology and virology	2014/15	£137	£53,194
	2015/16	£789	£21,234
	2016/17	£20,671	£7,783
Medical microbiology and virology Total		£21,597	£82,211
Grand Total	2014/15	£2,294,625	£2,409,145
	2015/16	£2,429,546	£2,651,927
	2016/17	£2,724,311	£2,866,831

Please note all of this data has been sourced via our contract monitoring data (SLAM). The imaging costs are based upon HRG codes for diagnostic imaging services as set out in the 2016/17 national tariff guidance from NHS England. Endoscopy costs are based upon any HRG with 'Endoscopy' in the title. Again, taken from the national tariff guidance file. Pathology data was based upon a list of treatment function codes provided in the NHS Data Dictionary.

- Please confirm whether your CCG received additional funding from the National Diagnostics Capacity Fund to increase capacity and productivity of diagnostic services. If so, how much.

NHS South Sefton CCG has received no additional funding in any of the above years from the National Diagnostics Capacity Fund.

Plans to invest and monitoring

5. Please confirm how your CCG assesses anticipated changes in demand for (a) x-ray; (b) ultrasound; (c) CT scan; (d) MRI scan; (e) gastroscopy; (f) colonoscopy; (g) flexible sigmoidoscopy; and (h) histopathology, and what assessment it has made of projected changes in demand.

NHS South Sefton CCG use the nationally published diagnostic waiting times and activity data <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/monthly-diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/> to assess levels of activity for each diagnostic test area. As part of CCG Operational Planning requirements set by NHS England, plans were required for the NHS Constitution measures including Diagnostic test wait times by month and CCG for 2017/18 and 2018/19. For the Diagnostic test plans we considered 3 years historic activity but based our plans on latest 12 months performance, as activity in a number of areas have increased significantly in the last 12 months meaning a 3 year average figure wouldn't detail the growth which has occurred in these measures, and would produce a plan lower than the last 12 months. CCGs are also asked to consider any national policy changes which may affect activity as part of their planning, or changes to national guidance, which is considered by our Planned Care and Cancer managerial and clinical leads and communicated to the Strategy & Outcomes team to include in the CCG planning submissions to NHS England

6. Please confirm whether your CCG has plans to improve and expand diagnostic capacity in 2017/18 and, if so, what those plans are.

None

7. Please confirm how your CCG monitors capacity and performance for (a) x-ray; (b) ultrasound; (c) CT scan; (d) MRI scan; (e) gastroscopy; (f) colonoscopy; (g) flexible sigmoidoscopy; and (h) histopathology.

The plans submitted to NHSE for Diagnostic test performance are monitored monthly by NHS South Sefton CCG as part of our Integrated Performance Reports which are published on our websites (<http://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/what-we-do/how-well-our-services-perform/>)

8. If diagnostic capacity has not been subject to increased investment, which of the 9 'must dos' from the 2016/17 NHS England planning guidance have been prioritised?

Each of the '9 must dos' is of equal priority to NHS South Sefton CCG and we believe adequate capacity has been commissioned.

Referral management centres

9. Please confirm whether your CCG operates or commissions a referral management centre that assesses referrals by local GPs.

NHS South Sefton CCG does not currently operate a referral management system as described

10. If yes to question nine, please confirm whether the list of specialities that fall under the referral management centre's remit include suspected cancer cases.

Not applicable