

Request FOI0614006:

Thank you for your request dated 04/06/2014 in which you made a Freedom of Information request. Please see Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust response below;

Please could you let me have the following information:

- **The number of people receiving NHS podiatry services in Northampton & Northamptonshire in 2013/2014**
- **The number of people currently receiving NHS podiatry services in Northampton & Northamptonshire**
- **The criteria being used in 2013/2014 for patients to access NHS podiatry services in Northamptonshire**
- **The criteria currently being used for patients to access NHS podiatry services in Northamptonshire**
- **The documentation relating to any decision change criteria**
- **The number of patients who were receiving podiatry services free on the NHS who now have to pay for their services in Northampton and Northamptonshire**
- **The charges being levied on patients who were receiving podiatry services free on the NHS and are now having to pay**
- **The details of the providers of the podiatry services to which patients are being directed**

Response:

The number of people receiving NHS podiatry services in Northampton & Northamptonshire in 2013/14:
6300

The number of people currently receiving NHS podiatry services in Northampton & Northamptonshire:
506

Please note that the above figures are based on the number of patients receiving face to face contacts (and therefore receiving treatment) opposed to on a caseload. A patient is likely to stay on a caseload whilst not necessarily receiving treatment in the period specified.

The criteria being used in 2013/2014 for patients to access NHS podiatry services in Northamptonshire

The criteria used to access the podiatry service in 2013, was that all applicants/referrals for NHS podiatry services would be assessed and risk categorised. If assessed as 'low risk' to 'at risk' they would have been offered self-help advice and discharged, given direction to other providers or given a short course of treatment (up to a maximum of 4 appointments), patients would then be discharged and sign posted to other providers.

The criteria currently being used for patients to access NHS podiatry services in Northamptonshire

The criteria now applied, is the result of a change of contract with Nene and Corby CCG. NHFT podiatry services are now contracted to provide assessments and treatment to children and those with a foot health risk and one or more long term condition.

The documentation relating to any decision to change criteria

NHFT does not hold this information; any documentation relating to change in criteria might be available from Nene or Corby CCG

The number of patients who were receiving podiatry services free on the NHS who now have to pay for services in Northampton and Northamptonshire

The Information to this question is not held by NHFT. It is not known how many patients previously receiving NHS podiatry care have been discharged as patients are discharged on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, NHFT is unable to surmise how many individuals choose to opt for private care.

The charges being levied on patients who were receiving podiatry services free on the NHS and are now having to pay

NHFT does not hold this information. Prices levied for private podiatry care vary from provider to provider but are available in the public domain.

The details of the providers of the podiatry services to which patients are being directed

Patients are signposted to a variety of providers including Health and Care Professionals Council registered podiatrists, the School of Podiatry and foot health practitioners as potential providers. No individual practitioners are suggested.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a request for a review of our decision you should write to:

The Information Governance Manager
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
CG08/09
Campbell House
Campbell Square
Northampton
NN1 3EB

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Freedom of Information Team

The Freedom of Information Team

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