

03/09/2025

NN-ICB/25-1270

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 4 August 2025, regarding peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP). We have processed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the FOIA, public authorities like ours are required to respond to requests for information within 20 working days. In response to your request, I can confirm that we do partially hold the information requested.

1. Commissioned or Provided Services

Q: Does your organisation commission or directly provide services specifically for:

- Peripheral Neuropathic Pain (PNP)
- Post-Surgical Neuropathic Pain (PSNP)
- Cancer-Related Neuropathic Pain (CRNP)
- Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (PDPN)?

Please break down by individual service, clinic, and hospital site.

As an Integrated Care Board (ICB), we are a commissioning organisation and do not directly provide healthcare services.

We do not commission standalone services specifically for:

- *Peripheral Neuropathic Pain (PNP)*
- *Post-Surgical Neuropathic Pain (PSNP)*
- *Cancer-Related Neuropathic Pain (CRNP)*

These conditions are generally managed within secondary care settings, including chronic pain, neurology, oncology, or surgical services, depending on individual patient pathways and local provider configurations. For further details about these services, we recommend contacting the following local NHS providers directly:

- *Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust <https://www.nuh.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information>*
- *Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust <https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/>*

- *Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*
<https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/contact/freedom-of-information/>
- **Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (PDPN)**

We do commission a Community Podiatry Service, delivered by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. This service supports patients with diabetes-related foot complications, including those associated with neuropathy. While this is not a pain management service, it plays a supportive role in managing risk associated with diabetic foot problems, including those that may involve neuropathic symptoms.

The service focuses on:

- *Prevention and management of foot complications (e.g. ulcers, infections)*
- *Assessment and triage of high-risk patients*
- *Offloading, orthotics, and footwear advice*

Patients with significant neuropathic pain requiring pharmacological or interventional management would typically be referred back to primary care or into specialist secondary care services.

2. Referral Pathways & Service Specifications

Q: Are there established care pathways, referral criteria, or service specifications for these conditions?

The ICB does not hold standalone care pathways or specifications for:

- *PNP*
- *PSNP*
- *CRNP*

These conditions fall within broader specialties in secondary care. Please refer to the relevant NHS Trusts for this information, as referenced in question 1 above.

For PDPN, access to the Community Podiatry Service is via referral from a:

- *GP*
- *Practice Nurse*
- *Community Nurse*
- *Other Healthcare Professional*
- *Or through self-referral (where applicable)*

All referrals are triaged based on clinical risk. Priority is given to urgent cases, and receipt of referral does not guarantee an appointment. Patients must meet eligibility criteria; a diagnosis of diabetes alone does not qualify for referral.

The Community Podiatry Service is currently undergoing a service review, which includes the referral model, service specification, and eligibility criteria. As such, while we are providing the current specification in response to your request, please note that it is under review and may not reflect current operational delivery in full. This review is being informed by local needs, national workforce constraints, and system-wide podiatry challenges.

Attached documents:

- i. *Current Community Podiatry Service Specification*
- ii. *Guidelines for Referral to Community Podiatry and Podiatric Surgery*
- iii. *Self-Referral Form*
- iv. *Healthcare Professional Referral Form*

3. Funding & Budgets

Q: What was the total expenditure on neuropathic pain services in the most recent financial year?

The ICB does not separately code or budget for 'neuropathic pain' as a distinct category. Services for these conditions are funded as part of broader contracts, including:

- *Community podiatry*
- *Chronic pain services*
- *MSK pathways*
- *Secondary care specialties (neurology, oncology, surgery)*

Funding mechanisms include block contracts and Payment by Results (PbR)/tariff-based models, depending on the service type and provider.

Detailed financial information may be available from individual NHS Trusts.

4. Planned or Recent Changes

There are no planned or ongoing changes specifically relating to the commissioning of PNP, PSNP, or CRNP services at this time.

However, as noted above, the Community Podiatry Service is currently undergoing a formal review. This may lead to future changes to the service model, referral pathways, and specification. Engagement with providers and system partners is ongoing, and any decisions will follow appropriate governance processes. At this stage, the review is in progress, and implementation timelines have not yet been finalised.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Director of Corporate Affairs via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to FOI Team at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Daybrook, Nottingham NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to:

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern via <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer on behalf of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net

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