

10/04/2025

NN-ICB/25-1126

Dear Requestor

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information, received on 13 March 2025, regarding the diagnosis and treatment services of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). 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 not hold the information requested.

**Please find below our response to your request:**

The Integrated Care System (ICS) is not a statutory body but is a collaborative partnership that brings together various health and care organisations to plan and deliver joined-up services and improve the health of people in their area. For more information on the ICS please go to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS website: [NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS](#).

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) is not able to provide a full response on behalf of the provider partners, to obtain this information, you will need to contact them directly. We have answered partially some of the questions asked, but please redirect your questions to the provider partners listed below:

- Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust  
[Freedom of Information | NUH](#)
- Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
[Sherwood Forest Hospitals \(sfh-tr.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
[Freedom of Information - Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals \(dbth.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust  
[FOI. Freedom of Information, FOI Scheme, Publication scheme \(nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](#)

## 1. PCOS Diagnosis and Treatment Services

- What services does your ICS currently provide for the diagnosis and treatment of PCOS?  
Patients can be referred to consultant led services.
- Are these services delivered through primary care, secondary care, or specialist clinics?  
Services are delivered through Acute Providers across the ICB. Please contact the acute providers listed at the start of this letter.

## 2. Diagnostic Pathway

- What is the diagnostic pathway for PCOS within your ICS?
- Are there specific tests, assessments, or criteria mandated for a PCOS diagnosis?  
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB do not hold this information, please contact the acute providers listed at the start of this letter.

## 3. Training and Guidance for Healthcare Professionals

- What training or guidance is provided to healthcare professionals within your ICS regarding the diagnosis and management of PCOS?
- How are healthcare professionals trained to understand the long-term implications of PCOS, such as its association with infertility, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease?  
Training and education of clinicians will vary considerably depending on factors including previous hospital experience, post graduate qualifications, personal interests and patient demographics. Ongoing regular postgraduate learning forums for primary care (including shared learning programme for GPs and NUH clinicians) provide opportunities.

## 4. Management and Treatment Options

- What management and treatment options are available for individuals diagnosed with PCOS in your ICS?
- Do these options include non-pharmaceutical interventions such as lifestyle or mental health support?  
These will depend on the needs and expectations of individual patients and the knowledge and confidence of clinicians.

## 5. Long-Term Care and Specialist Services

- Are long-term care plans available for patients with PCOS, and how are these structured?
- Are there any specialist PCOS clinics or dedicated services within your ICS? If so, what is the average waiting time for referrals?

The referral pathway for GPs is via PICS Community Gynaecology Service. For ease, I have included links to PICS' 'Contact us' page, should you wish to request this information from them - [Primary Integrated Community Services \(PICS\) Contact Us - Primary Integrated Community Services Ltd.](#)

## 6. Integration with Women's Health Hubs

- How does PCOS diagnosis and treatment fit within the remit of your ICS Women's Health Hubs?
- How are these hubs integrated into the broader PCOS care pathways?
- Given discussions around funding, how does your ICS plan to sustain or expand these services in the future?

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB do not hold this information, please contact the acute providers listed at the start of this letter.

## 7. Patient Data and Outcomes

- How many patients have been diagnosed with PCOS within your ICS over the last five years?
- What proportion of these patients were referred for specialist care, and at what ages?
- Does your ICS collect data on patient outcomes or satisfaction regarding PCOS treatment pathways?

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB do not hold this information, please contact the acute providers listed at the start of this letter.

## 8. Barriers to Care and Health Inequalities

- Has your ICS conducted any assessments or received feedback about barriers to accessing PCOS services?
- What steps have been taken to address any identified barriers?
- Has your ICS identified any disparities in PCOS diagnosis, treatment, or care outcomes for specific ethnic or socio-economic groups?

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB do not hold this information, please contact the acute providers listed at the start of this letter.

## 9. Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Involvement

- Are multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) involved in PCOS care within your ICS?
- Which healthcare professionals typically form part of these teams?
- How are MDTs coordinated to ensure holistic and patient-centred care for PCOS patients?

There is no formal MDT approach in primary care management of PCOS, but patients can be referred to integrated wellbeing services and social prescribers.

## 10. Public Awareness and Patient Information

- Does your ICS engage in public awareness campaigns or community education regarding PCOS?
- Are there any ongoing initiatives to improve understanding of PCOS among patients and the general public?

- Does your ICS provide specific information on PCOS for both healthcare professionals and patients?

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB do not hold this information, please contact the acute providers listed at the start of this letter.

#### 11. Primary Care Involvement

- Does each GP surgery within your ICS have a GP with a special interest (GPSwl) in women's health?

The ICB does not hold this information. The requester may wish to contact individual GP surgeries for this information.

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](mailto: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](mailto:nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net)

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via [nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net). All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.