

FOI REF: 23/116

11th March 2023

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Tel: 0300 131 4500
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Average coil (both copper & hormonal) waiting times across all sites that provide this service within your area of commission. The preferable time period is 2021 - present, if possible.

Clarification was sought as follows:

With regard to whether you wanted the average wait for any coil procedure, or if it's just the wait for one to be fitted.

We have a codes for:

- **Introduction**
- **Replacement**
- **Removal**

We asked you confirm which of the above should be included?

We also asked you to confirm if you want the wait time from the referral date, or from the date they are added to the waiting list. Confirmation was received that you require the following:

We're just looking for the average wait time of one to be fitted. I would assume this would be the introduction code but I'm not 100% what the introduction code entails. Please could you advise if that encompasses the fitting of coils?

Further clarification was then sought asking you to confirm if you wanted the wait time from the referral date, or from the date they are added to the waiting list and confirmation was received as follows:

Could we please have the figures for both?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) does not hold this information within East Sussex Sexual Health as data to measure average waiting times for Intrauterine Contraception (for copper and hormonal) is not collected within the Sexual Health Service.

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Routine requests for intrauterine contraception are managed based on individual clinical assessment and the need to exclude risk of pregnancy. It is common that this would entail a three week wait as this is the accepted interval for excluding pregnancy risk (1).

It is rare that women needing routine contraception would need to be booked more than 4 weeks in advance of their initial clinical consultation.

For people with more complex medical conditions, this could be delayed on a case-by-case basis by the need for further investigations or liaison with other specialist areas.

For people with some medical conditions, intrauterine contraception should be fitted in a hospital setting and are directly referred. This risk assessment is based on current guidance from the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare

However, please see the table below for the average wait time within ESHT's Gynaecology Department:

Proc Code	Proc Description	Avg Wait Days
Q121	Introduction of intrauterine contraceptive device	97.3

Please note, it is not possible to determine whether the initial referral is specifically related to the fitment of a coil, therefore we have used the date added to waitlist field when calculating the average wait time for an introduction of intrauterine contraceptive device procedure. Wait times for all admissions coded with the above procedure code and a date added to waitlist from the 1st January 2021 to date have been included to generate the above average wait duration.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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