

FOI REF: 23/152

28th March 2023

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

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:

Questions in relation to rheumatology

1. What is your current referral to appointment time for:

a. Routine new patients

40 weeks.

b. Urgent new patients

10-14 weeks.

c. Early inflammatory arthritis new patients

Routine wait time unless specified as urgent on the referral.

2. How many new patient referrals were received between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust received 5,421 new referrals in rheumatology between the requested period.

3. What is the size of the population catchment area covered by the rheumatology department (number of people)

This information is not available.

4. Whole time equivalent rheumatology permanent clinical staff within the Trust

a. Number of consultants (doctors)

3 whole time equivalent (WTE) and 1 WTE vacant post.

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b. Number of associate specialists

1.0 wte speciality doctor and 1 wte specialist registrar.

c. Number of staff grade doctors

0.

d. Number of trust grade doctors

0.

e. Number of Nurse consultants

0.

f. Number of rheumatology nurse specialists

6.00 wte and 1.0 wte ANP.

g. Number of physiotherapists (dedicated to rheumatology only)

0

h. Number of occupational therapists (dedicated to rheumatology only)

0

5. Does the rheumatology department run rheumatology subspecialty clinics

Yes.

6. If the rheumatology department runs rheumatology subspecialty clinics please list the subspecialties

Early Arthritis.
Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA).
Connective Tissue Disease (CTD) .
Paediatrics.
Adolescents.
Biologics.

7. Does the rheumatology department hold combined clinics with other specialties?

Yes.

8. If the rheumatology department holds combined clinics with other specialties please list the specialties

Paediatrics within ESHT
Royal Free London Hospitals for CTD patients.

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9. Referrals from primary care

a. Direct referrals to rheumatology for all rheumatological conditions

Yes.

b. All referrals triaged in primary care before received by the Trust

No.

c. Some referrals triaged in primary care before received by the Trust

No.

10. Is there an intermediate care rheumatology service between primary care and secondary care

No.

11. If yes to question 10 list the types of conditions seen within the intermediate care service

Not applicable.

12. Does the Trust rheumatology department hold clinics in settings away from the Acute Hospital?

Yes, at Uckfield Community Hospital.

13. If yes to question 12 in how many different non-acute hospital settings are clinics held

1 Site.

14. Compared to face-to face consultations approximately what proportion (%) of new patient consultations in 2022 were remote consultations (Telephone or video)?

New F2F 95%, New telephone 5%.

15. Compared to face-to face consultations approximately what proportion (%) of follow up consultations in 2022 were remote consultations (Telephone or video)

% Follow up F2F – 59%, % Follow up telephone 41%.

16. Does the rheumatology department have a day case infusion suite used solely for rheumatology department patients?

Yes.

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17. Does the rheumatology department have dedicated rheumatology in-patient beds? Yes/No

Yes.

18. If yes to question 17, how many dedicated rheumatology in-patient beds are there?

16 beds looked after by Rheumatology team out of which 8 specific beds for Rheumatology patients which shared between General medical beds at Eastbourne District General Hospital.

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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