



**East Sussex Healthcare**  
NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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FOI REF: 25/205

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

## 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:

**This FOI request seeks to establish the types, numbers, costs and timings of *Helicobacter pylori* tests performed by your Trust (or on its behalf) for primary care providers.**

### **Question 1: Your Trust**

**In your response to this FOI request, could you please specify the identity of the parts of your Trust for which this FOI is relevant, and for which you are responding.**

[The responses to the questions below are provided by the Microbiology team.](#)

**Question 2: Types of Tests and Providers Which types of tests relevant for the primary care diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* (e.g., stool antigen test, urea breath test, serology) do you perform within your Trust, or have performed on your behalf by a Third party? If outsourced, could you please specify the Third party used.**

[Helicobacter pylori antigen. These tests are performed within the Trust.](#)

### **Question 3: Test Types and Volumes**

**How many *Helicobacter pylori* tests of each of these types were performed by your Trust or on its behalf in the most recent 12-month period, or other defined accounting period for which data is available?**

[Helicobacter pylori antigen tests for the 12-month period from March 2024 to February 2025 = 4954.](#)

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**Question 4: Requirements for in-Person Testing: Which types of tests required the in-person attendance of the patient at your Trust or its Third-party provider for testing, how many such in-person attendances were required, and what was the average time taken between patient arrival and departure?**

The testing of stool samples for *Helicobacter pylori* antigens does not require the in-person attendance of the patient.

**Question 5: Turnaround Time for Test Results: Specifying each type of *Helicobacter pylori* test performed by your Trust, or on its behalf, could you please provide the average time (in hours) between receipt of sample to transmission of test result to the GP practice?**

The average Turnaround Time for *Helicobacter pylori* antigen tests over the twelve-month period from March 2024 to February 2025 was 1.9 days (45 hours). (The Trust's published Turnaround Time for *Helicobacter pylori* antigen tests is seven days.)

**Question 6: Test costs and Tariffs:**

**For each type of *Helicobacter pylori* test performed by your Trust or on its behalf, what is the total cost of performing the test to your Trust or the Third party provider (i.e., personnel, infrastructure, reagents and consumables, etc)? What does your Trust charge for performing each of these tests? Do these tests correspond to standard NHS tariffs or HRG codes? If so, could you please specify the tariff code and amount charged for each test type.**

The Trust does not hold this information.

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](mailto: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

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)