

FOI REF: 25/569

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
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28th August 2025

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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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting aggregate information regarding services provided or commissioned by your Trust in relation to peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP), with a specific focus on:

- **Post-surgical neuropathic pain (PSNP)**
- **Cancer-related neuropathic pain (CRNP)**
- **Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN)**

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not provide a secondary care chronic pain management clinic/service.](#)

[Any pain clinics that provide this service would be out of area and referred by a GP practice.](#)

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

1. Patient Numbers & Treatment Modalities (Last 12 Months)

For each hospital site or service, please provide:

The number of patients seen for each of the following conditions:

- **PSNP**
- **CRNP (please split into surgically induced and chemotherapy-induced)**
- **PDPN**

Please also break this down by hospital department.

[Not applicable.](#)

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Treatment Modalities

For each hospital site or service, please indicate *Yes* or *No* as to whether the following treatment modalities are available for *PNP*. Where stated yes please provide patient numbers for the latest 12-month period.

- Gabapentin prescriptions
- Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections
- TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation)
- Acupuncture (including PENS – Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation)
- Theatre-based nerve stimulation procedures (e.g., spinal cord stimulators or other implanted/surgical neuromodulation devices)

If exact numbers are unavailable, proxy data is acceptable (e.g., the percentage of neuropathic pain patients receiving each treatment modality).

Not applicable for PSNP, CRNP or PDPN.

2. Service Provision

Does your Trust or provider offer specific or dedicated services for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN?

No.

- If yes, please list each relevant service or site (e.g., pain clinic, neurology clinic, diabetic foot clinic, community pain service) along with their addresses.

Not applicable.

For each listed site or service, please indicate:

- The types of healthcare professionals routinely involved (e.g., pain specialists, neurologists, specialist nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists)
- The number of staff per role (headcount or FTE if available)

Not applicable.

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3. Referral Pathways & Service Specifications

Are there established care pathways, referral criteria, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN?

- If yes, please supply relevant documents or summaries.
- If not, please clarify whether these conditions fall under broader chronic pain, MSK, diabetes, or oncology pathways.

Not applicable.

4. Clinical Guidelines, Protocols, Strategic Plans

Has the Trust developed or contributed to any strategic plans, business cases, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?

- If so, please provide relevant documents, including any timelines and associated funding information.
- Are there any specific clinical guidelines, care pathways, or treatment protocols in use? For example:
 - NICE CG173
 - NEUPSIG
 - Local pathways for diabetes- or oncology-related neuropathy
- If yes, please provide copies or summaries of key components.

Not applicable.

5. Funding & Budgets

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

- If no specific figure is available, please provide overall pain management funding and any known distribution (e.g., primary/community vs secondary care).
- Please indicate the type of funding, e.g. tariff or block contract

Not applicable.

6. Planned or Recent Service Changes

Are there any recent, ongoing, or planned changes to:

- Commissioning arrangements
- Referral pathways
- Service structure
- Clinical treatment options for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?

Not applicable.

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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net