



East London

**NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance**

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20 September 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5589

I am responding to your request for information received 9 September 2024. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

Availability of NT-proBNP testing

Question 1: How many Community Diagnostic Centres are currently operational in your area?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide diagnostic services for heart failure. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Is NT-proBNP testing for suspected heart failure currently available within local Community Diagnostic Centres? (please specify if any local Community Diagnostic Centres do not offer NT-proBNP testing)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 3: If NT-proBNP testing for suspected heart failure is not currently available, are there any plans to introduce it in future?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Testing Volume

Question 4: How many NT-proBNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2024?



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Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 5: How many BNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2024?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 6: How many patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure have accessed the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2024?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Guidelines

Question 7: What guidelines are in place for the local Community Diagnostic Centre to follow in relation to administering BNP and or NT-proBNP tests for patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 7 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 8: What referral pathways should be followed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre in relation to patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 8 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Targets/metrics

Question 9: What assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of local population need and the likely demand for BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing for patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 9 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 10: Based on local demographics, what assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of the number of patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure that should be seen by the centre on an annual basis?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 10 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Scaling up

Question 11: What assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of the need to increase access to BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing – including projections of growing need and increases in the number of people at risk of heart failure?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 11 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 12: What assessment has been made of the barriers that may impact the ability of local Community Diagnostic Centres to meet future demands for access to BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 12 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 13: What assessment has been made of additional resources required by local Community Diagnostic Centres to meet rising demand for BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing over the next 12 months; 18 months; and 5 years?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 13 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 14: What resource has been allocated to local Community Diagnostic Centres for the acquirement of point of care testing capabilities and administration of BNP and/or NT-proBNP tests?



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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 14 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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