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Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 4JL

5th March 2025

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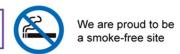
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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Clinical Coding Details for 2024

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. How many episodes of care were coded by your organisation in 2024 (both inpatient and outpatient)?	2024 Coded Inpatient Episodes = 112,170 2024 Coded Outpatient Episodes = 152,627			
2. How many episodes of care went uncoded in 2024?	0 Inpatient episodes - uncoded - 2024			
3. How much income do you estimate was not generated due to uncoded activity?	All inpatient data coded HRG's generated with associated tariff's.			
4. Can you provide the split of coding volumes between specialities (e.g., oncology, cardiology)?	2024 Inpatient Volumes = Diagnostics & Outpatients 1 Genitourinary Medicine 1 Medicine 41417 Cardiology 2836 Clinical Haematology 4011 Dermatology 3974 Diabetic Medicine 534 Endocrinology 803 Gastroenterology 16844 General Medicine-DO NOT USE 8 Geriatric Medicine 4331 Hepatology 1 Neurology 177 Paediatric Dermatology 2			

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		Plastic Surgery 425			
		Rehabilitation 1171			
		Respiratory Medicine 4306			
		Respiratory Physiology 66			
		Rheumatology 570			
		Stroke Medicine 1358			
		Not SFH Activity 2343			
		Lymphoedema 2			
		Medical Oncology 2341			
		Surgery 25558			
		Anaesthetics 3			
		Breast Surgery 497			
		ENT 1583			
		Fracture 87			
		General Surgery 8621			
		Ophthalmology 1619			
		Oral Surgery 759			
		Orthopaedics 5148			
		Paediatric Surgery 46			
		Paediatric Trauma & Orthopaedics 17			
		Pain Management 684			
		Urology 6273			
		Vascular Surgery 221			
		Unknown 1592			
		Castle Ward 116			
		Chatsworth Rehabilitation 587			

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Patient Experience Team
01623 672222
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Acting Chief Executive David Selwyn

	Winter Pressures-General Medicine 889 Urgent Care 16179 Accident & Emergency 1085 Acute Physician Internal Medicine 15085 Z-Acute Internal Medicine-DO NOT USE 9 Womens & Childrens 25080 Community Paediatrics 57 Gynaecology 4661 Midwifery Services 63 Neonatology 1994 Obstetrics 11317 Obstetrics Antenatal-DO NOT USE 5 Paediatric Cystic Fibrosis 3 Paediatric Diabetic Medicine 4 Paediatric Epilepsy 3 Paediatrics 5422 Well Babies 1551 Grand Total 112170			
5. Please explain how your organisation manages coding activity	Paper Records Logistically Managed All activity coded by 5th working day 100% coded Distributed amongst the team - rotated around all work evenly Digital work where appropriate			

6. Are outpatient and inpatient coding managed by the same team or separate teams?	Inpatient coding managed by the clinical coding team. Outpatient coding managed by the outpatient team.			
7. How many Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) staff complete clinical coding for the Trust?	22.60 contracted WTE staff members currently in clinical coding.			
8. What proportion of the total WTE staff for clinical coding is substantive (permanent), bank staff, and agency staff?	All permanent staff - no contracts or bank – currently.			
9. Does the Trust currently have any automated solutions in place for clinical coding?	Templated Coding.			
10. If yes, please explain the automated solution that is in place.	3M Template Coding Function.			
11. If not, is the Trust planning to implement automated coding solutions in the next 12–24 months? Or would it be interested in exploring potential solutions?	The Trust is currently looking at implementing a new solution.			

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12. Is the Trust currently on Payment by Results (PbR), block contracts, or another financial model?	Block Contracted Inpatient Activity Elective Recovery Fund – some elective work - moving to block.			
13. What clinical coding systems or software does the Trust currently use to capture clinical codes?	3m Medicode 360 Encoding Software Solution.			
14. Does your Trust's Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system integrate clinical coding, or do clinical departments use standalone systems?	Standalone systems.			
15. What are the main challenges the Trust faces in clinical coding (e.g., timeliness, accuracy, staffing shortages)?	Staffing shortages – ageing workforce and replacing coders with experienced coders is not achievable, significantly time inputted to getting team to certain experience level and the cycle of a team means this takes years of training to replenish Data completeness always an issue too.			
16. Could you provide the contact details (name, job title, and email) of the person who is ultimately responsible for		Yes	Section 40	Names, job titles and email addresses (other than that of our board of directors) constitute personal data.

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overseeing clinical coding within the Trust?				Section 40(2) provides that personal data is exempt information if one of the conditions set out in section 40(3) is satisfied. In our view, disclosure of this information would breach the data protection principles contained in the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018.
				In reaching this decision, we have particularly considered: • The reasonable expectations of the employees given their positions; Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust considered that none of the individuals would have a reasonable expectation that their personal data would be disclosed; • The consequences of disclosure; and • any legitimate public interest in disclosure. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to the public interest test.

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I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the Open Government Licence (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

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