Our Ref: NG/RM/25047
Date: 26th February 2025

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
Bellringer Road
Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request
I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 29th January 2025. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

1.   How many episodes of care were coded by your organisation in 2024 (both inpatient and outpatient)?
       As a Mental Health Trust, we currently only ensure that inpatient coding is completed using ICD 10 – for the financial year 2023/24 we had 1775 FCE for inpatients. Outpatient episodes are sometimes coded by the clinical teams using Snomed, but this is not monitored.

2.   How many episodes of care went uncoded in 2024?
       All episodes of in-patient care are coded.

3.   How much income do you estimate was not generated due to uncoded activity?
       As a Mental Health Trust we are not paid as payment by results.

4.   Can you provide the split of coding volumes between specialities (e.g., oncology, cardiology)?
       We are a Mental Health Trust and therefore do not provide these services.

5.   Please explain how your organisation manages coding activity.
       The inpatient coding is managed through a central team, this team is made up by 2 part time staff which equals 1 WTE.

6.   Are outpatient and inpatient coding managed by the same team or separate teams?
       The Clinical Coding team only deal with inpatient activity. Any information recorded against outpatient activity is dealt within the clinical team.

7.   How many Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) staff complete clinical coding for the Trust? **1 WTE**

8.   What proportion of the total WTE staff for clinical coding is substantive (permanent), bank staff, and agency staff?
       The posts are substantive.

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Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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9. Does the Trust currently have any automated solutions in place for clinical coding?
No, The Trust does not have an automated solution.

10. If yes, please explain the automated solution that is in place. **N/A**

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?
There are currently no plans for an automative system.

12. Is the Trust currently on Payment by Results (PbR), block contracts, or another financial model?
As a Mental Health Trust we operate on block contracts.

13. What clinical coding systems or software does the Trust currently use to capture clinical codes?
The Trust uses Lorenzo as our EPR system and input ICD 10 codes for inpatient activity.

14. Does your Trust's Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system integrate clinical coding, or do clinical departments use standalone systems?
Our EPR system integrates clinical coding.

15. What are the main challenges the Trust faces in clinical coding (e.g., timeliness, accuracy, staffing shortages)?
As a small team it is difficult to manage any staff absences.

16. Could you provide the contact details (name, job title, and email) of the person who is ultimately responsible for overseeing clinical coding within the Trust?
The Deputy Chief Information Officer is the Manager. Staff names and email addresses are exempt as they constitute personal data and would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 (in accordance with qualified exemption S40 (2)(a) of the FOI Act).

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. 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: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance

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