

Our Ref: NG/RM/26150
Date: 1st July 2026

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

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 4th June 2026. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

I am interested in how Trusts clinically manage patients who take Lithium.

1. I would like to request the clinical guidelines for lithium treatment the Trust uses.
The Trust follow NICE guidelines for Lithium, bipolar disorder: [Overview](#) | [Bipolar disorder: assessment and management](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#) and depression: [Recommendations](#) | [Depression in adults: treatment and management](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)

There is a shared care guideline in place between the Trust and GPs which also lays out the monitoring responsibilities: [Lithium ESCA for adult patients April 2024.pdf](#) . There is no Trust Lithium guideline.

2. Additionally, does the Trust have leaflets or similar which are given to patients who are prescribed Lithium, or is reference made to information sources in letters or other material given to patients? **We give Lithium patients the purple NHS 'Lithium therapy booklet' and also leaflets from 'Choice and medication' (which we subscribe to): [North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust Home](#) , usually the 'Lithium PIL' leaflet. A 'QR code' linking to Choice and medication is available on our patient letters for patients to access.**
3. For blood Lithium tests, which laboratory does NSCHT use? **The Trust uses the laboratory at Royal Stoke University Hospital, University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM).**
4. Does the Trust hold the NEQAS performance for Lithium tests for this laboratory? **North Midlands and Cheshire Pathology Service (NMCPs) holds a copy of the results as they come back to UHNM for review.**



Chair: Janet Dawson
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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5. Do the Lithium results show a reference range and is this range visible to a clinician on a computer screen or paper? **Yes, the lab range of 0.4-1.0 mmol/L is displayed on all results, either on screen or paper.**
6. Does the Trust have guidance which states that uncertainty needs to be considered in Lithium result interpretation? **Please see the guidance in Q1, it mentions different ranges for different diagnoses and patient groups, e.g. older people or those with renal impairment..**

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