

Title:

ME/CFS - Diagnosis care & support

Reference Number: F4973.
Date of Response: 21/10/2022

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response, below:

1. Has Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust implemented the NICE guidelines [NG206] on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: diagnosis and management, which were published on 29 October 2021?

Yes, most parts of the guidelines were already being implemented prior to the publication.
2. If the NICE guidelines [NG206] on the diagnosis and management of ME/CFS have not been implemented, what is the intended timetable and deadline for implementation?

N/A.
3. How many patients with a diagnosis of ME/CFS are receiving care from Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust as of the date of this FOI request?

Patients with ME/CFS do not remain under the care of the RDUH. After initial investigations (to exclude alternative diagnoses) they are referred to the dedicated specialist community Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Service. The ME/CFS Service for Adults is based at the Exeter Community Hospital, Hospital Lane, Exeter EX1 3RB. Assessment, follow up appointments and group interventions are held via telephone, video or in clinic.
4. Of those receiving care for ME/CFS from Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, how many have a personalised care and support plan in place as of the date of this FOI request?

All patients that are seen by the community team co-produce their personalised care plan including a personalised activity management plan.
5. What training has been provided by Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust for healthcare professionals on the implementation of the NICE guidelines [NG206] on diagnosis and management of ME/CFS since 29 October 2021?

All staff within the community specialised team receive regular updates as part of their professional development plan (PDP) . The Clinical Liaison for the team (Prof David Strain) is the medical advisor to Action for ME, contributes to the DHSC Task & Finish group for ME delivery plan, and represents the Royal College of Physicians on the Education and Attitudes subgroup of this Taskforce. He also provides internal training as part of the regular medical education plan at the RDUH Grand rounds.

6. What written information is being provided to health professionals and patients on websites in line with the recommendations on diagnosis and management in the NICE guidelines [NG206].

The following information is on our Trust website:

<https://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/services/myalgic-encephalomyelitis-chronic-fatigue-syndrome-me-cfs/>