

Freedom of Information Request

Definition of Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions: Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) are health conditions-diagnoses for which timely and effective outpatient care can help to reduce the risks of hospitalization by either preventing the onset of an illness or condition, controlling an acute episodic illness or condition, or managing a chronic disease (Sarmiento et al, 2020).

- 1. Other than an inflationary uplift, has the Community Health Services contract or budget allocation increased, decreased, or remained the same during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years?-**

The community health services budget (as clarified by the requestor) has increased during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years (other than an inflationary uplift).

- 2. Does the Trust's contact or agreement for Community Health Service specifically include the provision of care, or services, for ambulatory sensitive conditions which are designed to prevent emergency admission to hospital?**

Yes. Community Children's Nursing provide a service to children who are acutely or chronically ill, have complex health needs and or require palliative and end of life care. The teams provide direct nursing care to children at home thus minimising hospitalisation where appropriate.

- 3. Is the prevention of admission to hospital with one or more ambulatory sensitive condition a specific component or target for the Trust's district nursing services?**

HDNT prevent admission to hospital for the following ambulatory sensitive conditions:

- Diabetic foot infection/osteomyelitis
- Haemochromatosis / venesection
- Bronchiectasis/chronic pseudomonas
- Chronic anaemia/Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Immunosuppression – receiving lifelong immunoglobulins
- Total parenteral nutrition

Reponses for District Nursing are:

District Nursing prevent admission to hospital for the following ambulatory sensitive conditions:

- Catheter care (male/ female/ suprapubic) for independent patients with no other nursing need
- Disconnection of chemotherapy bottles – prevents re-attendance at chemotherapy unit
- Total parenteral nutrition

4. Has the Trust developed services, in the last two years (2019/20 and 2020/21 years), which are designed to prevent admission to hospital for patients with ambulatory sensitive conditions?

- In the past 2 years NHSCT has developed an OPAT/DFI service which HDNT are an essential part of.
- In the past 2 years HDNT have accepted a further 15 patients for venesection thus preventing attendance at OPD
- The Diabetes Network – foot pathway, has been supported by the Trust through funding to recruit Advanced Podiatry posts to allow the implementation of the Diabetic Foot Pathway since December 2019. Patients with Diabetes are streamlined according to risk and if they develop an ambulatory sensitive condition they are referred to the Enhanced Foot Protection Teams within 24-48 hours. The patient will see a multidisciplinary team of professionals in the out patients setting of Antrim Area Hospital and Causeway Hospital. This team have the key skills necessary to diagnose and treat their complication which will often prevent admission to hospital or attending the emergency departments. From 1st April 2019 to 31st January 2021, 191 referrals were made to the Out Patient Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) service and as a result prevented hospital admission and an estimated 3807 bed days in Antrim Area Hospital and Causeway Hospital.

5. If the answer to question 4 was yes – were these services to develop:-

- **New Teams within the Community Health Services**
- **Ambulatory Care in the Hospital Setting**
- **Existing Community Health Services and Teams**
- **Primary Care – General Practice Services**
- **Other (briefly describe)-** Implementation of a new pathway across acute and community services with enhanced resources

For question 4 and 5 the Trust has developed a Direct Assessment unit on both sites where patients can be seen and assessed on an ambulatory basis. We also have a programmed treatment unit where patients can be seen on a day case basis for treatments previously requiring a hospital admission such as a blood transfusion.