

Request title:

Wig provision for dermatology patients

Date of Response: 13th August 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

Please provide details of your Trust's NHS wig provision policy for dermatology patients, including those with alopecia and other dermatology conditions which cause hair loss. I would assume that a wig policy would include such information as:

- Details of the number of wigs that dermatology patients can obtain via a NHS wig prescription including details of the type of wig allowed, whether a monetary value is placed on allowance, any limitations/timescales.
Please see the Trusts Wig Policy attached above.
- Can people with all types of alopecia obtain a wig via a prescription? i.e can androgenetic and scarring alopecia patients obtain a prescription or is one offered just to those with alopecia areata?
Please see the Trusts Wig Policy attached above.
- If wig prescriptions are only offered to those with a certain severity of hair loss, what extent of the head needs to be affected for a prescription to be offered?
Please see the Trusts Wig Policy attached above.
- Are prescriptions for human hair wigs ever offered?
Please see the Trusts Wig Policy attached above.
- What is the annual Trust budget for wigs?
The budget for wigs is £39,549.
- Does the annual Trust budget for wigs include wigs for oncology patients as well as dermatology patients? Or are there separate budgets? If so, please provide details of both.
Yes, the budget is for both Oncology and Dermatology patients.
- Do patients have a choice as to a supplier to take their wig prescription?
Please see the Trusts Wig Policy attached above.
- If a choice of supplier is provided, please confirm the number of choices patients receive and the names and addresses of the NHS approved suppliers.
Please see the Trusts Wig Policy attached above.

I am happy to receive the wig policy as it stands regardless of whether it covers all the aforementioned points.

Please note that I had originally attempted to do a central request to NHS England for this information but they advised me that NHS England does not hold the information relevant to my request. I was told that as my request relates to services commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups I should redirect my request to individual CCGs. I have sent my request to CCGs and told I should make requests to the relevant NHS Trust.