

## FOI\_1599\_2023-24 – FOI Request concerning Postural Tachycardia Syndrome PoTS

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*Postural tachycardia syndrome (PoTS) is a neurovascular condition characterised as an abnormal response by the autonomic nervous system to upright posture. The condition causes affected patients of all ages to experience a range of symptoms requiring extensive clinical investigations involving neurology and cardiology specialties to inform a positive diagnosis.*

1. **How many patients are referred to your Trust annually with a suspected diagnosis of PoTS and how many diagnosed PoTS patients are under active care under specialties within the Trust?**

We do not have direct referrals to the Solent trust/Paediatric Long COVID clinic with a specific question of POTS. There are patients with Long COVID that are subsequently referred to paediatric cardiology for assessment of possible POTS.

2. **Is there evidence of an increase in referrals of PoTS patients since May 2020 due to patients suffering with long-Covid?**

Unable to state as we would not have had these referrals prior to long-COVID service being established.

3. **How many patients with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of PoTS are seen annually in the Emergency Department or admitted as an emergency?**

N/A

4. **To which individual specialty or specialties are PoTS patients referred for investigation, diagnosis and longer-term management?**

e.g., cardiology, neurology, care of the elderly, paediatrics.

**Please specify separately for children and adults, where applicable.**

Paediatric patients within the long COVID service with a question about POTS are referred to specialist paediatric cardiology service and continue to be supported within the long COVID service

5. **Within your Trust do a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients diagnosed with PoTS have access to a specialised PoTS clinic or service for treatment by dedicated clinicians with an interest/expertise in the condition?**

**If so, please provide details of specialised adult and paediatric services in place.**

Paediatric patients are continued to be supported by the Paediatric Long COVID service however are referred to speciality clinic when necessary for assessment and management depending on diagnosis.

6. **Where dedicated PoTS services are available within your Trust, are there any restrictions in place around acceptance of new referrals or longer-term management of patients? Please specify any restrictions imposed.**

NA

7. **If no specialist PoTS services are in place within your Trust, do you reject referrals (back to referring GP), accept referrals under general acute services e.g.,**

**cardiology / neurology (please specify) or refer on to a known specialist service elsewhere? (please specify where).**

N/A

- 8. How is activity coded for adult and paediatric patients with a diagnosis of PoTS attending for a first or follow up outpatient appointment or admitted to inpatient care?**

N/A