

25 January 2024

Intrathecal Therapy Services

1. What is the address of your base refill clinic, with postcode?

Neurology Service

The Royal Hospitals
274 Grosvenor Road
Belfast
BT12 6BA

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

Spinal Cord injury Unit Ward Clinic
Musgrave Park Hospital Outpatients
Stockman's Lane
Belfast
BT9 7JB

Chronic Pain Service

Belfast Trust Pain service does not have a base refill clinic.

2. How many adults with pumps for spasticity/dystonia do you manage with intrathecal baclofen?

Neurology Service

39 - 40

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

35 – 40, spasticity only

Chronic Pain Service

Belfast Trust Chronic pain service does not manage any adults with pumps for spasticity/dystonia with intrathecal baclofen at present.

3. How many adults with pumps for pain do you manage with intrathecal opioids?

Neurology Service

None

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

None

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Chronic Pain Service

Belfast Trust Chronic pain service does not manage any patients with intrathecal opioids at present.

4. How many children under the age of 18 with pumps for spasticity/dystonia do you manage with intrathecal baclofen?

Paediatric Services:

Belfast Trust Paediatric Service do not have any children with an ITB pump at present. Adult services would hold information on the numbers of children between ages 16 and 18.

Neurology Service

None

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

None

Chronic Pain Service

Belfast Trust Chronic pain service (Paediatric) do not have any patients with ITB pump at present.

5. How many children under the age of 18 with pumps for pain do you manage with intrathecal opioids?

Paediatric Services:

Belfast Trust Paediatric Service do not have any children with an ITB pump at present. Adult services would hold information on the numbers of children between ages 16 and 18.

Neurology Service

None

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

None

Chronic Pain Service

Belfast Trust Chronic pain service (Paediatric) do not have any patients with ITB pump at present.

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6. Approximately how many pump refills does your service do each month at your usual locations?

Neurology Service

120 refills in Royal Victoria Hospital per year for 39 - 40 patients
8 patients in Causeway Hospital.

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

20 - 25

Chronic Pain Service

The Chronic pain service does not manage pump refills.

7. Do you accept people attending on a stretcher for refills?

Neurology Service

Yes

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

Yes

Chronic Pain Service

The Chronic pain service does not manage pump refills.

8. How often do you refill pumps away from your base hospital clinic, e.g. once/month, once/year, once in 5 years?

Neurology Service

Monthly

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

Once every few months but unpredictable.

Chronic Pain Service

Not applicable.

9. What is the furthest you have travelled from your clinics to refill a pump, in miles or time, in the past 3 years?

Neurology Service

Information not held.

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Neuro Rehabilitation Service

30 miles

Chronic Pain Service

Not applicable.

10. For the first time, a patient is unable to attend the clinic by wheelchair or stretcher for a planned refill, because of acute illness or transport failure. They are expected to recover and be fit to attend refill clinics in the future. They are 90 minutes' drive from your usual refill service base and there is no more local service which could refill the pump before it runs out. Would you plan:

- a) **No refill and when pump runs dry advise local doctors to manage withdrawal symptoms with medication by another route.**
- b) **Staff from base clinic travels to refill pump at patient's home or local hospital, before it runs dry.**
 - **Who would travel? Doctor who runs the service? Doctor in training who is rotating through the service? Nurse who refills pumps in clinic?**
 - **Do you arrange second person to travel to chaperone, check procedure or open vials to maintain sterility? No. /Yes, then who? Or a video call to check procedure/programming?**
 - **When refilling away from usual clinic, would you ask Pharmacy to prepare a sterile syringe with the total drug to be injected into the pump, or would you aspirate from separate vials at their home, as is usually done in clinics?**
- c) **Patient transferred to your hospital for in-patient management and refill**
- d) **Other, please explain**

Neurology Service

- The doctor from the base clinic travels to refill pump at patient's home or local hospital, before it runs dry.
- Patient is transferred to our hospital for in-patient management and refill.

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

- If patient unable to travel to clinic, the doctor who runs the service travels to refill pump at patient's home or local hospital, before it runs dry.
- There is no availability of staff in local hospital to allow a second person to travel to chaperone, check procedure or open vials to maintain sterility?
- Staff would aspirate from separate vials at their home, as is usually done in clinics.

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Chronic Pain Service

Not applicable.

- 11. If you have refilled it once while they are acutely unwell, but subsequently the patient is unable to attend the out-patient clinic by wheelchair or stretcher for any future refills, and resides 90 minutes' drive from your usual refill service base, and there is no more local service which does home refills to take over long term management, would you plan:**
- a) No visits for further refills or dose reduction**
 - b) No further refills but home visits to reduce ITB dose in stages before pump runs dry.**
 - b) Regular home visits to refill pump until end of battery life, but pump not replaced.**
 - c) Regular home visits to refill pump indefinitely and pump replacement at end of battery life.**
 - e) Patient travels by stretcher ambulance, admitted overnight for regular refills**
 - f) Other, please explain**

Neurology Service

Neurology would plan as follows:

- No further refills but home visits to reduce ITB dose in stages before pump runs dry.
- Patient travels by stretcher ambulance, admitted overnight for regular refills.

Neuro Rehabilitation Service

- Other - this has not occurred, regular home visits could not be sustained.

Chronic Pain Service

Not applicable.