

19 February 2024

Nuclear Medicine

I would like to know how many Nuclear Medicine requests were received from the South Eastern Trust to the Belfast trust over the last 5 years. The information broken down by year. In each year I would like to know how many of each type of procedure was requested and how many of these patients were inpatients?

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Nuclear Medicine scans performed in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust by year is presented in the table below.

Year	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 – 31 Jan 2024
Type of NM Scan	Total number				
Bone Scan	347	199	354	318	226
MiBG	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Parathyroid	49	32	52	51	48
GFR	<5		<5	<5	<5
V/Q	87	46	72	65	59
Meckels	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
Octreotide	12	12	26	26	22
SeHCAT	89	43	100	136	87
Gastric Emptying	9	<5	12	9	9
DaT	140	12	198	236	192
Labelled White Cell	5	<5	<5		
Renogram	80	43	66	52	35
DMSA	109	38	86	67	139
Sentinel Node	18	11	43	39	20
I-131 Thyrotoxicosis Therapy	50	34	34	25	25
HIDA	<5		<5		
Myocardial SPECT	53	44	80	62	52
Liver Colloid		<5			

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Please note:

- We have provided you with the total number of scans completed for each year. The service does not have access to the number of referrals received but not scanned. We are unable to provide this information as it is not held centrally.

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- The service does not have access to the number of patients that were inpatients in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust at the time of their scan in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. This information is not held centrally and would require a manual trawl of all referrals to try to identify this information.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.